

Journey through China

A synthesis of cultures;
China at the crossroads

AT NOON in a Chinese metropolis, sleek professionals spew out of skyscrapers, walk past advertising billboards and high-tech beauty salons, and settle into reserved seats at Western-style cafes.

This is a stereotyped, misleading image of China's modernization. The modernization drive is not just erecting lower buildings with one-way glass facades. It is forging a cultural synthesis of the ancient and traditional with the new and Western. Tracing the changes that have occurred over the last decade reveals a cultural spirit which often clashes with Western concepts.

In Beijing, the capital of China, modernization has escalated some young graduates from an austere, meagre life in college to a Madison Avenue lifestyle. This generation is shouldering the new task of interacting with international businesses. Their world revolves around grand hotels such as the Shangri-la and the Great Wall Sheraton where their government-run corporations maintain suites. Always dressed in suits and armed with brief cases, they walk into conference rooms to negotiate in foreign languages or attend "power lunches" to push through contracts. When they

there are guys who have much more money. Some even have two vehicles.

A step down the economic ladder are the intellectuals, scientists, commercial artists

Part 1

and showbiz personalities who form Mind Liu (the glitter circles). Their pride in the profession may be lofty, far above fish and fruit mongers, but even with their moonlighting incomes they can hardly afford eight-yan-a-drink bars more than once a week. It is a popular saying in China today, "If you want a hot lifestyle, go to cafe's and concert halls; but for cold cash find the entrepreneurs."

Overshadowed by modernization are the ordinary masses who make up the mainstream population. They are factory workers, teachers, government employees, soldiers, doctors and shop assistants. They do not have sideline financial sources and often escape the attention of the outside world. Most of them have to save mouthfuls in order to buy a colour TV set, refrigerator or cassette recorder — necessities of the time.

If skyscrapers, vogue garments and privately-owned cars fall into the model of Western society, these working people identify themselves more closely with China's past. They eat grain and modest dishes, have both Mao jackets and one or two only-on-holiday suits in the closet, and commute by bike rather than taxi. Their sparetime is devoted to playing with children, "mahjong" games, and crafting their own furniture.

As the Chinese Communist Party leads the nation across uncharted waters toward "spiritual and material modernization," regional contrasts and cultural clashes emerge. In Shanghai or Canton, where electric stoves, computers and international airports are integral to city-life, man-pulled carts are still being used to transport beehive coal bricks to households.

The cultural difference between cities and the countryside can be a thousand years apart. Rural people have built new houses in precise copies of ancient architecture. Tea houses are being restored and stages of local operas financed. The idea of a discotheque is inconceivable.

Contrasts also exist between rural areas. Uneven economic development has furnished some villages with electrical appliances, thereby accentuating the backwardness of others. Especially in the remote mountain areas, villagers have lived for 50 years without ever traveling to a countryside only 45 kilometers away. If they travel at all, their luggage usually consists of baskets of local produce.

A synthesis of cultures is taking shape, blending the traditional, the Oriental, the Western and the unprecedented," says Han Mingzhi, a sociology professor at Beijing University.

He says the infusion of Western culture dates back to the Opium Wars of the 19th century.

ign aggression and unfair treaties remained fresh in the ensuing decades. All cultural exchanges aroused suspicion among the Chinese. During the Revolution, complete rejection of the West led to total isolation, which was broken only in the late 1970s.

Since it opened the door voluntarily for the first time, the Chinese nation has experienced waves of advanced technology and, inevitably, the cultural influx from the West. As a result, China has come to realize its backwardness, which has shaken the foundation of its own culture.

Admiration of the West has

Right: Pursuit of Western fashion has been a major result of political and economic reforms in China

Below: Chinese youths are more consumeristic than their parents. Most newlyweds consider televisions and other western products as necessities of life.



nomio development.

These two trends sometimes nourish each other, but more often they clash. As a result, the harmony of ancient China has given way to disequilibrium, with "big houses" and Western-style cars rivaling for clientele.

Floating between the extremes are what some people call "cultural orphans." They are the people who have absorbed Western concepts in terms of family relations and social customs. But they wear pin-striped suits, eat rice with running chopsticks, and are fans of breakfast and rock 'n' roll, but prefer tea to coffee. They dine out in Western cafes but are fond of Chinese food.

Many, they are, the consumers. But they say: fashion is subjective, preference, personal and culture never absolute. "I like to look good, but I need to be practical," says Gao Xiaoyan, a 25-year-old Shanghai resident who wears pumps

and embroidered dresses with a green army coat. It may not work in America, but people like this here."

Historically, integration is an outstanding characteristic of the Chinese, according to professor Han. After the Manchurians, an alien nationality in Northeast China overthrew the Qing dynasty (1644-1911), and the mainstream Chinese culture incorporated the Manchurian culture within less than a century.

Manchurian emperors and officials all adopted the language and Confucianism of the majority Chinese.

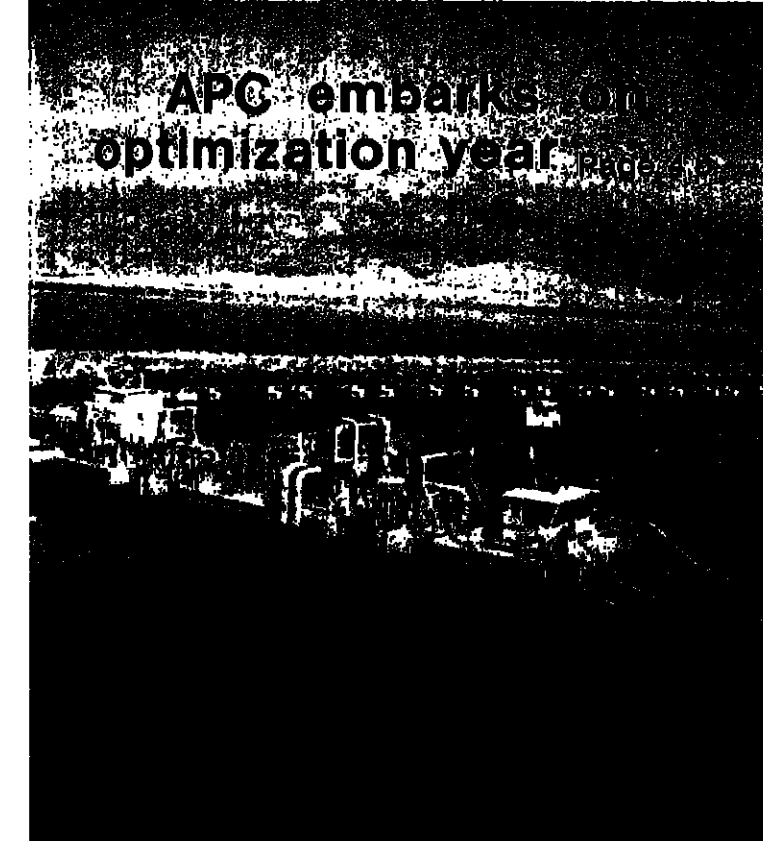
Now challenged by Westernization from all fronts of the modernization drive, the Chinese are wondering whether this integration ability can maintain the integrity of their culture. True, China has taken two steps forward, and one step back to ponder how far it has advanced into the modern world.

THE JERUSALEM STAR

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APC embarks on optimization year

Supplément en français
Cette semaine, dans Le Jourdain:

Palestiniens: comment
communiquer? P. 34
Sait-Jarville et les réfugiés P. 35

Arab Bank holds
shareholders meeting

AMMAN — The Arab Bank held its 68th general assembly meeting at the Arab Bank headquarters in Amman, under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdul Majid Shoman, the bank's board chairman.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Rifaat Ibrahim, comptroller of companies at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply and Arab Bank shareholders from various Arab countries.

The meeting discussed the bank's balance sheet, the profit and loss account and the board chairman's report.

See pages 12-17

Mr. Abdul Majid Shoman

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Her Majesty Queen Noor during the ceremony

In a ceremony to honour Palestinian women

Speakers pledge support for uprising

By Margarette Hall
Special to The Star

UNDER THE patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, in co-operation with the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW) Monday held a ceremony in honour of the women martyrs in the popular Palestinian uprising. During the ceremony, which was held at the Palace of Culture, Queen Noor distributed 26 commemorative shields to representatives of women martyrs, and of those imprisoned for their resistance to the occupation authorities.

Speaking at the occasion, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Mr Rashid Ureikat praised the heroic acts of the Palestinian women who gave their sons all the encouragement they needed to continue on their struggle for the liberation of their land.

Mr Ureikat praised "the mother, the sister, and the daughter" who made great sacrifices for their land and people.

Director of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Mrs In'am Al-Mufti,

also gave a speech on the occasion in which she greeted the Palestinian women "who are determined to achieve victory over the occupiers" and regain their freedom.

She said the maturity of the uprising has impelled the world to reconsider its position on the Arab-Israeli conflict. "For the first time," she said, "both the official and unofficial international organizations have a consensus on siding with the Palestinian people in their struggle, and condemning the atrocious Israeli measures used against our armless people."

In a telephone interview with The Star, Mrs Al-Mufti said that every individual and group should help the uprising in every way possible. She stressed the important role the BPW can play in explaining the uprising and the situation in the occupied territories on the international level since it has contacts with international organizations, as it is affiliated with the International Business and Professional Women Club.

In her speech, president of the General Federation of the Jordanian women, Heifa Al-Bashir, said that the heroic uprising is filled with national indications,

and its heroes have restored life to the cause. "Those heroes emerged from under forgetfulness and aggression, and renewed their steadfastness on their land. They are a generation united in hope, armed with faith, and ready for sacrifice and martyrdom," she said.

Fairouz Layan, who represented the martyr Nura Kamal, is not related to the martyr, yet identifies strongly with her. "If I were there (the occupied territories) now, I would do the same thing," she says. "The uprising is like a tree, which in order to live, needs to be watered. These deaths are to the uprising like the water to a tree, they keep it alive."

Fairouz came to Jordan with the refugees of 1968. She feels that there is a fire inside her, and it needs to be expressed. "Representing Nura is the least I can do," she says. She is proud of every woman who is fighting for Palestine.

One member of the public who did not want to be mentioned said: "It's good to have a Women's Day to honour the martyrs. This way our brothers will receive the message of our support. They will know that they are not alone in the field."



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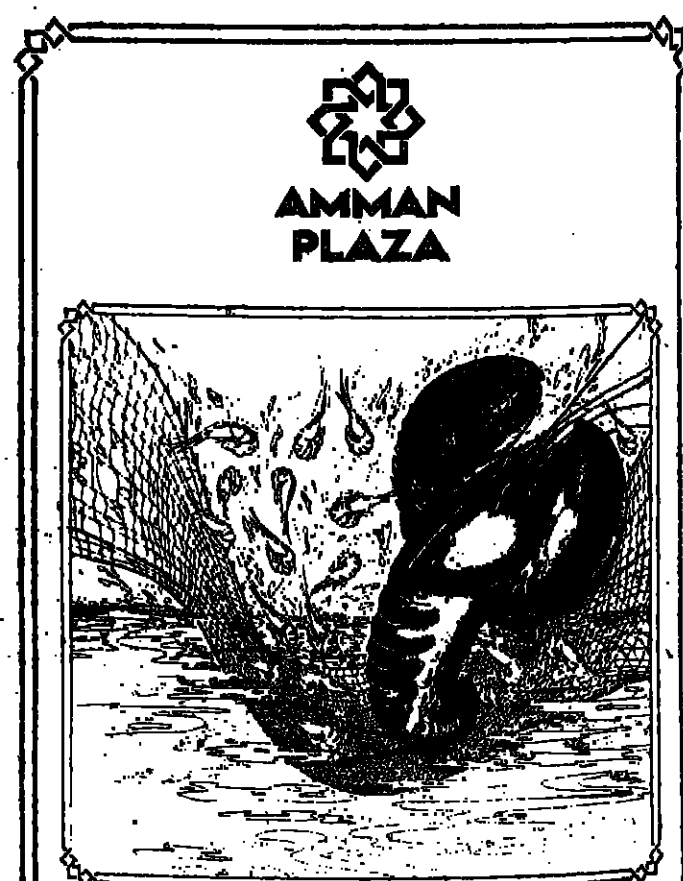
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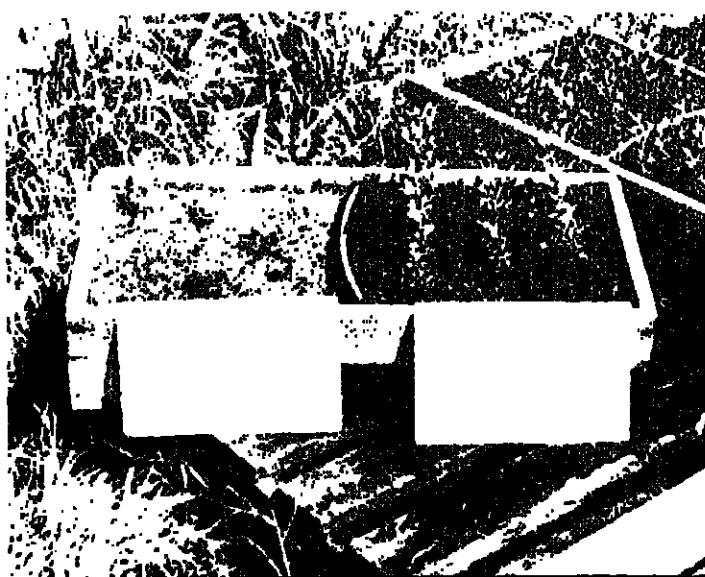
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With Rich New Earth, plants need no fertilizers

'Pure gold' remains unmined

AMMAN (STAR) — The vitality of the agricultural sector in Jordan makes it almost a duty for agricultural companies and organizations to seize any opportunity that could lead to the improvement of this sector.

George E. Shaffer, general director of the Modern Trade Agency, the United States, comes to Jordan with what he calls "a revolutionary product" that could dramatically reduce the cost of production and increase the agricultural yields.

Mr Shaffer says the product, called "Rich New Earth" is made by a modern microbiological process from rich bio-mass nitrogen materials, such as cotton-gin waste, and from other similar waste products.

He says that he carried out some experiments on "Rich New Earth" in the Jordan Valley and Al-Azrak, and the results were very impressive.

The experiments he conducted proved that with the use of Rich New Earth, the water usage will be reduced by up to 35 per cent, and the crop yields will be increased by 200-300 per cent. Rich new earth can be applied alone to the plants and the amount of money that could be saved by using it instead of fertilizers amounts to JD 28 per dunum.

"In addition to all these advantages, Rich New Earth could be manufactured locally, and the cost of starting to industry will not exceed JD 150,000, according to Mr Shaffer. Moreover, the

money put into the industry will be regained" in less than 12 months, he says.

"But," says Mr Shaffer, "I've been trying for quite a long time to convince people to adopt Rich New Earth, and all my effort was in vain." He says he approached the Ministry of Agriculture and other private companies to consider starting the industry, but all he received was promises that never materialized.

Jordanians on whose farms Mr Shaffer conducted his experiments concerned what he said, "there is really something unique about this product." Captain Safran Hussein said he experimented Rich New Earth on a small level and was very impressed by the results. A man with a long experience in agriculture Captain Hussein strongly believes in the necessity of taking this product seriously, saying "nobody should disregard it."

'Rocks and Minerals of Jordan' on public display

AMMAN (Star) — 7 Millions of years of the earth's history are exhibited in the beautiful landscapes of Jordan, giving evidence of the development of the mountains and valleys, of the movements of huge rock masses and the processes of erosion, transportation and deposition of earth's materials. Jordan is an open book for geologists and earth scientists. Especially fascinating is the great variety and beauty of the rocks and minerals.

To introduce this wealth to an interested public as well as to scientists, a geoscience exhibition "Rocks and Minerals of Jordan" will take place at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources on 3-5 April, presenting typical samples of each geological formation and each region in Jordan. Precambrian crystal-

ine basement rocks, paleozoic and mesozoic sedimentary rocks as well as cenozoic volcanics will be shown. All kinds of rocks and minerals used for decoration, construction and industry will also be presented.

The exhibition is a project of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences/the Natural History Museum, the Geology Students' association/Yarmouk University, the Department of Geology/University of Jordan, and the Royal Scientific Society. In cooperation with the Goethe-Institute.

"Rocks and Minerals of Jordan" will be opened under the patronage of Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al-Khatib on Sunday, 3rd April, Tuesday, 6th April, from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Institute helps ensure occupational safety in Jordan

By Diane C. Chlangwa
Special to The Star

A seminar aimed at reviewing the current levels of international knowledge of the hazards of asbestos and the best practical methods of control was held in Amman on 26-28 March by the Vocational Training Corporation and the Occupational Safety and Health Institute in collaboration with the Asbestos Institute of Canada.

Among the various topics discussed during the three-day seminar were talks concerning the use of asbestos in Jordan and the protective measures in force, the hazards of asbestos substitutes and the techniques of medical surveillance and monitoring of asbestos dust. A workshop on how to measure asbestos dust in the workplace and ensuring that it remains below the threshold limit values specified by WHO and ILO was also conducted.

Speaking about the level of asbestos in Jordan chairman of the seminar and Director of the O.S.H.I. Mr A. Abdel-Jaber, stated: "Asbestos isn't used much in Jordan. However, people are concerned about it. We had some 95 participants from all government and private sectors attend the seminar which

included the Electricity Authority, the Health Service and Ministry of Higher Education representatives.

According to Abdel-Jaber, this seminar is just a fraction of the many educational services conducted by the O.S.H.I. Since its establishment in March 1983, the institute has been engaged in identifying and implementing the strategies necessary to reduce the levels of industrial accidents in the country. In its attempt to tackle its objectives, the O.S.H.I. provides training and consultancy services, and research and field studies for all interested parties.

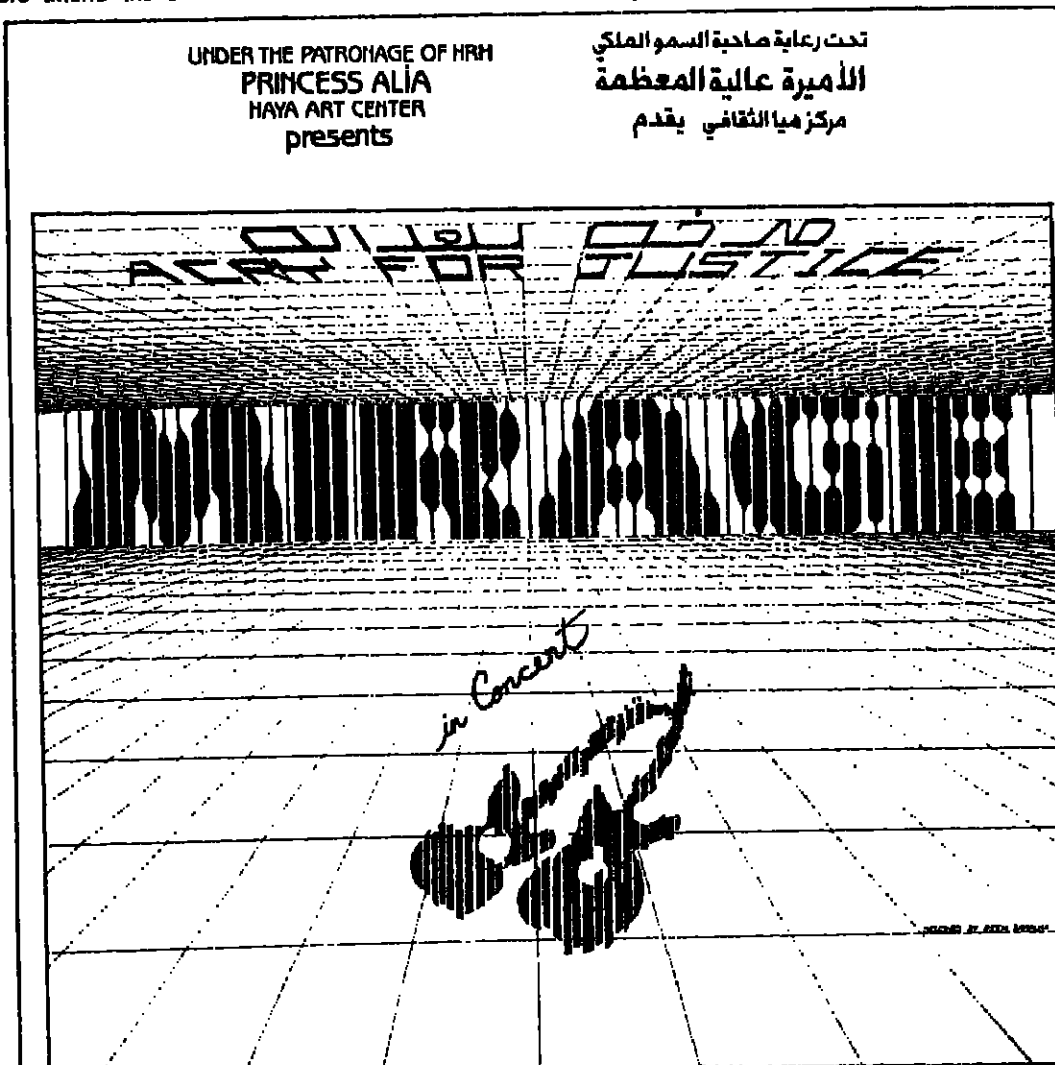
The training services provided by the institute are among its major activities. The many courses conducted for either for four to 18 days include courses for inspectors with enforcement of advisory responsibilities in occupational safety, programmes for teachers, trainers and educators, and safety awareness programmes for workers. On occasion, the institute also conducts special lectures for schools and vocational training centres. "Such services are important because Jordan still does not have an established educational system for safety and health like our institute," said Abdel-Jaber.

The institute's consultancy ser-

vices offer a full industrial consultancy and advisory service. Of the many O.S.H.I. services provided to the public are the content and production of company safety policies and programmes. Other consultancy services include the assessment of workplace safety and hygiene measurements, the selection and use of all forms of safety equipment such as alarm systems, machinery safeguarding devices and personal protective equipment, to name a few. In an effort to ensure that the safety measures made by the O.S.H.I. are followed, the Jordanian government in 1984 issued an article for all companies that have more than 20 workers to have available a safety officer employed at all times.

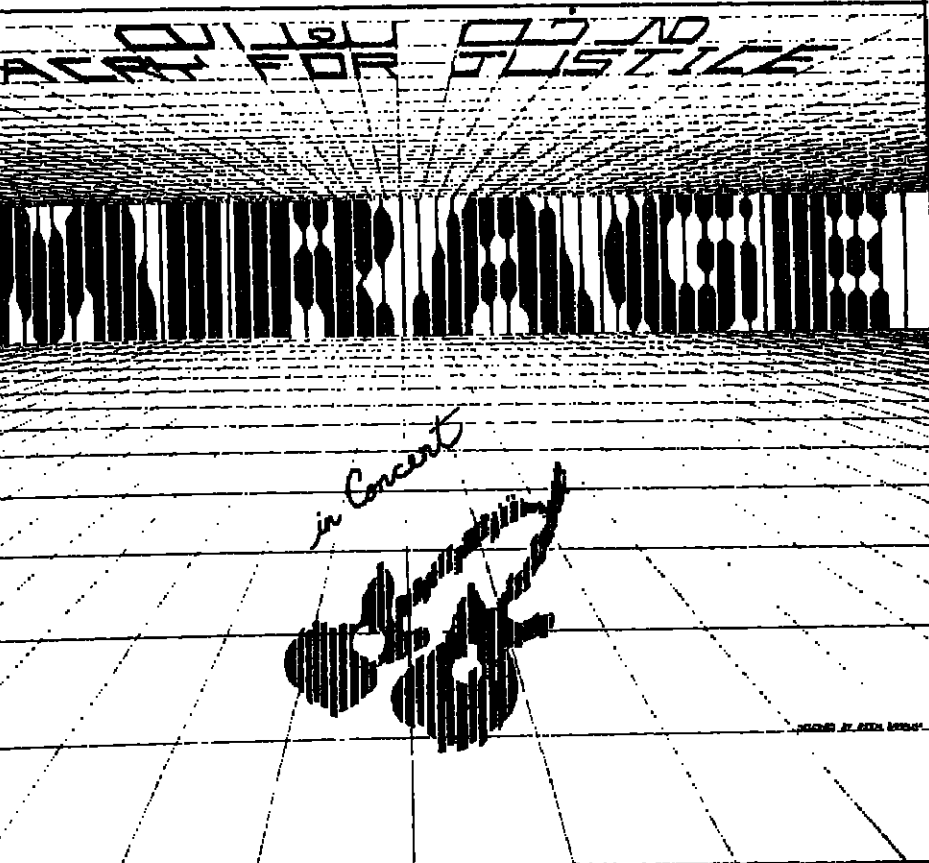
To ensure that the institute remains reputable at an international standard, in January 1987, the O.S.H.I. became the national centre for occupational safety and health information making it a part of the international service in Geneva. In two months time, the O.S.H.I. is expected to move to a new location in Amman.

"This new building will be facilitated with labs, video machinery lecture and seminar rooms, all of which are essential for providing better services," concluded Abdel-Jaber.



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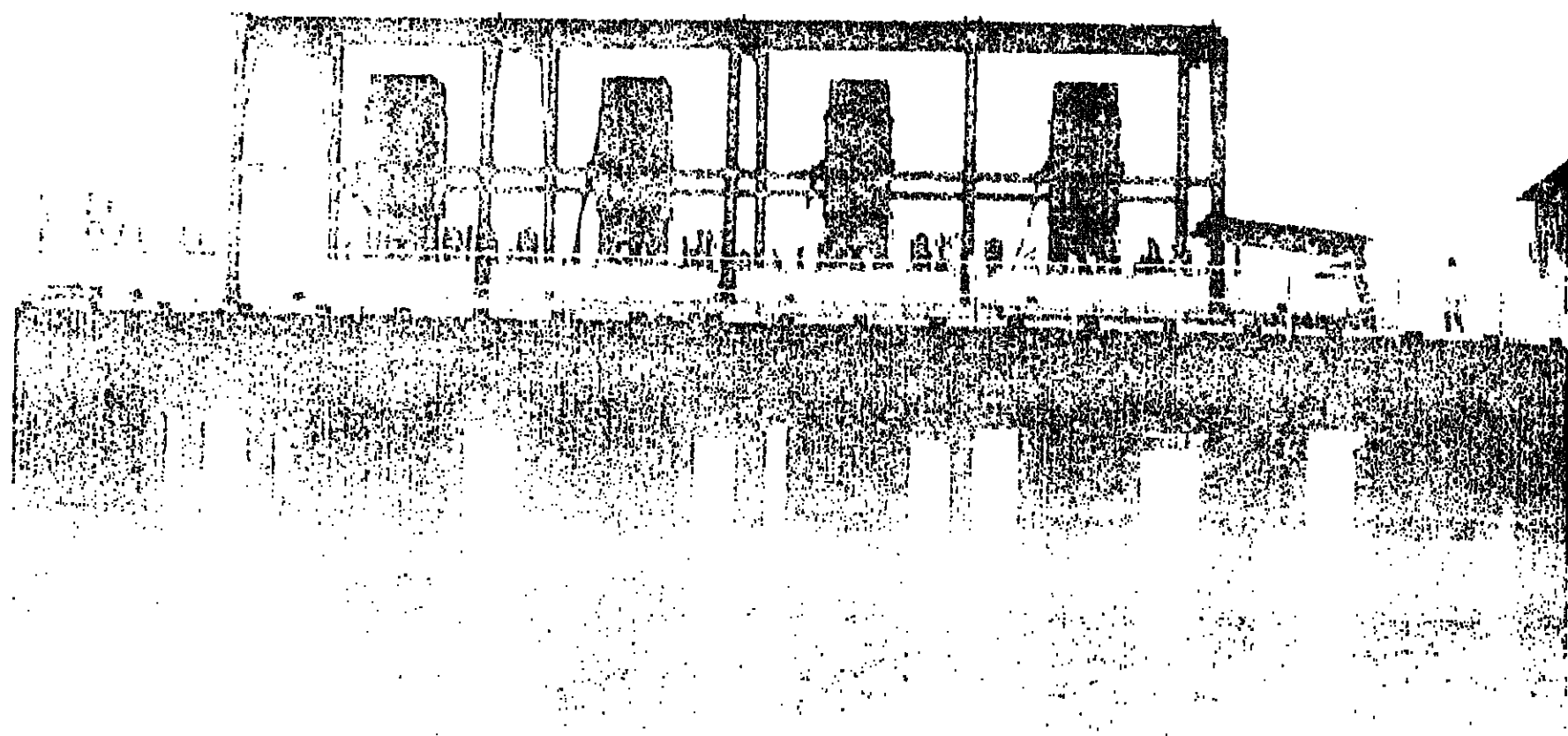
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The Brine Intake

Life out of death APC embarks on 'optimization year'

By Rasim Rahim
Star Staff Writer

TOUGH AS it is, long as it sounds, the trip to Ghaur Al-Safi takes you through the colossal mountains of the Jordan Valley to one of Jordan's largest industrial plants where the country's potash is the 'scene of all'.

Sitting back in his chair, calm and relaxed, Mr Ali Ensour, managing director of the Arab Potash Co. (APC), narrates the proud history of his company. He tells the story of the present five-year-old APC, which was rendered successful by mostly, the will to succeed and the human efforts.

The APC has suffered many setbacks which were mostly due to external factors. Now, however, the industry is on its natural course, and the 'years of losses are past history'.

Mr Ensour estimates a net return of JD 2 million by the end of 1988. 'This industry will never lose. I would invest all my money in Potash if I had the choice,' he says.

As the company embarks on its 'year of optimization,' Mr Ensour explains that the composition of production at APC is divided into two stages, allotted to a 10 per cent production level in programmed utilization. The first stage (8 per cent) was completed in 1987, with the accomplishment of almost 1.3 million tonnes in production. Completion of the second stage is hoped to turn out in the 1988 results.

The promising factor lies in the prices of potash, whereas the prices increased by 30 per cent between 1987 and 1988. 'This year, we were the first producer to set the '1988 price' in the world. The APC has actually done it.'

Mr Ensour argues that the potash investment is not marginal, reaching \$150 million, which is larger than the original one. For

a 1.2 million tonne of production, the basic investment amounts to \$4 per tonne (\$480 million in total). However, for a range of 1.4-2.2 million tonnes of production, the investment is broken down to \$200 per tonne (\$200-225 million in total). He says 'Even with the 30 per cent increase in price input, potash was sold for \$80 to \$85 per tonne.'

The pricing structure in potash follows a certain world cycle. The cycle was bad for potash producers, although it is improving, other factors play a key role in the pricing structure. Mr Ensour says 'when you go over 75 per cent in level of production, you hit a certain record. For instance the proposed level for 1987 was \$140 to \$150, however, potash was sold for \$86 during a certain period of 1987.'

The Jordanian potash is chloride (KCL) based, and is sold on an agricultural grade basis. Sixty per cent of the potash is KTO content (KCL molecule). Looking however for potash as an investment instrument, it is 'stage-set' investment, with the best dynamic distribution strategy, a good freight advantage coupled with the geological properties of potash.

The new expansion to potash coincides with the dredging offer on the brine intake channel. It comprises the necessary modifications on the four pumps which pump the brine into the solar system. The solar element is the source of raw materials to the brine. The process is based on the series of ponds which get the brine from the sea through harvesters, with each pump pumping three cubic metres per second.

The dredging offer was aimed at enlarging the 'brine intake' channel by 1) modifying the pumps and 2) getting deeper with the water level deeper which decreased previously by a natural cause.

The intended modification is to be fully realized five years from now with the accomplishment of 2.25 million tonnes in production by the end of 1993, staged first at 1.7 million tonnes for the period 1991-1992.

On The Star's visit to the potash plant, Mr Nasser Al-Sadoun, plant manager of the APC, said the first accomplishment by the company, was hit-



Mr Ali Ensour

ting the target 'commercially of 1.2 million tonnes by the end of 1987.'

Briefing us on the production policy, he said the plant is operated continuously, which reached a production factor of 92 per cent over the 365-day period during 1987. Noteworthy, the plant's original design accounted for 85 per cent production factor on annual basis, however, the company targets for a 90 per cent factor in production.

The APC's plant, explains Mr Sadoun, is run on two scheduled shutdown a year (7-10 days each) and emergency shutdowns. However, 'due to the efficiency of maintenance work done during the scheduled shutdowns, energy shutdowns are rare on this plant,' says Mr Sadoun.

He contends that the plant

has to operate within its capital costs, and the company's target aims at two elements: the production factor and the operation factor. 'The plant runs every individual day, and should have been designed to produce more potash.'

Safety and security, he says, are very essential elements in our plant. 'This is a safe plant, there is no chemical dangers, no environmental hazards, the KCL dust is not harmful, our product can be eaten, the anti-caking additive is not harmful. According to Western safety regulations, our level is European.'

He says daily production is difficult to monitor, accordingly the company evaluate its production criteria on monthly basis. 'Our season runs from May to October every year, and with the smallest level of expansion we could accomplish more. We want to reach 2.2 million with the modification works; nonetheless, we are the eighth in the world in production and exports.'

Highlights

The APC was established in 1958 for the purpose of utilizing mineral salts in the Dead Sea, paramount of which is potassium chloride. After a period of interruption, the company resumed operations in 1975, and in 1982 the project was completed at a total cost of \$480 million.

The manufacturing of potash follows the following chart of seven areas:

Areas..... Carnallite.....
Sylvinite..... Crystallization.....
Dewatering.... and drying..... Screening
and compaction.... Storage..... and
shipping..... Production
and marketing.

Off the company's total capital, reaching JD 72.45 million, holdings are distributed as follows: 1) the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan 53.44 per cent, 2) Iraq 5.68 per cent; 3) Libya 4.35 per cent; 4) Kuwait 4.35 per cent; and 5) Saudi Arabia 0.34 per cent. In addition to the above governmental holdings, the capital is held by the following institutions according to the size of holding: 1) Arab Mining Co. 25 per cent, Islamic Bank 5.52 per cent, Jordan Postal Saving Fund 0.55 per cent and private sector 0.77 per cent.

Other governments and Arab and international investment institutions, which extended credits, reaching JD 74,752,270 were: The British Government, USAID, World Bank, OPEC, Libyan Government, Kuwait Fund for Arab Social Development, Iraqi Fund for Overseas Development, Austrian's Government loan, Social Security Corp. and the Banking Consortium of Jordan.

The raw material

According to Dr Said Kheis, head of the research department of the APC carnallite is the raw material in potash manufacturing. It is a compound salt (KCL, MGCL2, 6H2O) which is sedimented by concentrating the Dead Sea water using a solar system in the carnallite pans. So far, the table salt has been sedimented in the salt pan and the precarnallite pans.

The chemical character of the Dead Sea brine holds a unique assemblage of salts in comparison with brines having a marine origin. It is rich in calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, and bromine. The typical composition is: sodium chloride (7.85 per cent), potassium chloride (1.2 per cent), magnesium chloride (13.7 per cent), magnesium bromide (0.48 per cent), calcium chloride (3.8 per cent), and water (73.11 per cent). The estimated total amounts of these salts is over 43 billion tonnes.

Employees

A total of 1,300 employees work for the APC, with a ratio of 30/1,300 of foreign to Jordanian workers. By the end of 1987, two American experts were still working at the plant, and about 20 Indians and Pakistanis and 11 workers from neighbouring Arab countries. The plant is run by Jordanian engineers, who over a five-year period have developed a good expertise of the plant's management.

The APC training centre, established in 1980, has developed into an 'excellent centre.' Different categories of employees are subject to extensive upgrading programmes prepared by a group of specialized and experienced engineers-trainers.

The centre is equipped with the modern training aids and equipment. Sources of information and training materials are accessible to the training personnel through direct contacts with similar centres in Europe and USA.

Workshops:

The APC provides its own workshop facilities with huge maintenance sections well managed and monitored on unit-ba-

sis. According to engineer Mohammed Abu Zraik, the APC manufactures its own spare parts which time-saving and less costly. The machinery and fabrication side of the workshop is of a unique character. The employees and engineers who are employed at this section are motivated and encouraged to be self-reliable and innovative to save the company the heavy costs of importing parts and lengthy time in waiting for the

necessary materials. People who are working at the APC's workshop are self-conscious, well-trained, experienced and strive to improve their style of work, according to Abu Zraik.

In the eyes of businessmen and industrialist, the APC is a successful industry from which a lot is yet to be expected. But in the eyes of the people of the surrounding areas, the APC is the channel through which the products of modern civilization reached them.

The part of the Jordan Valley in which the APC was built has grown radically since the APC started working. New roads, electricity, and investment which contributed to the development of the area came along with the APC.

As well, new work opportunities were made available to many of the people who earlier had to make do with whatever their poor farms used to yield.

Another attraction which catches the eye of the traveller down the road to the Ghaur Al-Safi is a newly-built town 20 kilometres from the APC plant. The town is the APC's township which was designed to accommodate employees of the APC.

The town houses 277 families and includes a kindergarten which accommodates 98 children.

For the lack of entertainment and recreation facilities in the area, a special APC club was built. The club has a number of recreational centres, and makes it possible for the town residents to have a wide range of activities whenever they feel like switching off their TVs which are connected to a central video circle.

Little has actually been said about the Arab Potash Co., nevertheless, the company from top to bottom is as Mr Ensour puts it 'the now generation of the successful Arab Potash Co.'



APC terminal at Aqab Port

JORDAN POTASH SALES BY GRADE AND DESTINATION 1987

Country	Standard(MT)	Fine(MT)	Gren(MT)	Total(MT)
INDIA	326,450	-	-	326,450
CHINA	301,400	-	-	301,400
BRAZIL	71,730	-	30,250	101,980
ITALY	3,000	43,975	37,560	84,535
INDONESIA	84,000	-	-	84,000
S. KOREA	78,500	-	-	78,500
FRANCE	13,150	39,520	11,300	63,970
MALAYSIA	50,133	-	-	50,133
SINGAPORE	50,133	-	-	50,133
TAIWAN	38,070	4,000	-	42,070
JAPAN	-	36,000	-	36,000
PHILIPPINES	9,450	-	-	9,450
BOTSWANA	4,400	2,200	-	6,600
HOLLAND	6,050	-	-	6,050
MAURITIUS	-	6,000	-	6,000
TURKEY	5,775	-	-	5,775
NEPAL	-	5,500	-	5,500
REUNION	-	-	5,150	5,150
TUNIS	3,000	1,500	-	4,500
GREECE	-	4,200	-	4,200
EGYPT	-	80	-	80
TOTAL	995,138	142,975	84,260	1,222,373

Potash manufacturing process

Carnallite harvesting

The precipitated carnallite in pan C-3, pan C-2, pan C-1, pan C-5, and pan C-6 contains 84% carnallite and 16% sodium chloride.

The average thickness of carnallite deposit is approximately 40-60 cms. This bed is harvested as a slurry from beneath the brine and delivered to booster pumps on the dykes via a floating line. The carnallite slurry is then pumped to the refinery through steel pipes.

Four floating tracked harvesters are utilized to gather the carnallite. These harvesters are capable of floating in one meter of brine and are propelled by means of four track systems. High technology control equipment is installed on the harvesters, and provides precise movement for optimum carnallite recovery.

Refinery

The potash refinery is on the Safi-Mazra road, approximately one km east of the carnallite pans. The design capacity of the plant is for 1.2 million metric tons per year of potash. The operation can be summarized under the following headings:

Carnallite processing
The carnallite slurry is received, dewatered and decomposed with water in agitated tanks. The resulting solids from the decomposition are potassium chloride and sodium chloride, the mixture being

called sylvinite. The sylvinite is dewatered and washed. The resulting cake is conveyed to the sylvinite processing stage.

Sylvinite processing

The sylvinite cake is leached using four agitated tanks in a two-stage process. Heated brine, returned from the crystallization process, is used for leaching the potassium chloride from the sylvinite. The potassium chloride is dissolved leaving the sodium chloride solids. The hot brine, now saturated with potassium chloride, is clarified in a thickener. The thickener overflow is pumped to the crystallization process, and the underflow slurry containing sodium chloride crystals is dewatered, repulped with waste brine and pumped to tailings.

Crystallization

The hot brine from the thickener overflow, which is saturated with sodium and potassium chlorides, is cooled successively in a five-stage vacuum crystallization system from 98°C to 49°C. Upon cooling, potassium chloride (KCL) decreases in solubility, and crystallizes under controlled conditions.

Product dewatering

Potash slurry from the last stage crystallizer is directed to the product hydro-cyclones where partial dewatering takes place. The underflow of the cyclone is sent to centrifuges for further dewatering.

Drying

The cake from the centrifuges is conveyed to an all-fired cocurrent rotary dryer to remove the last traces of moisture entrained with the crystals. Product from the dryer is sent to the screening system, while the dust is collected using cyclones and an electrostatic precipitator.

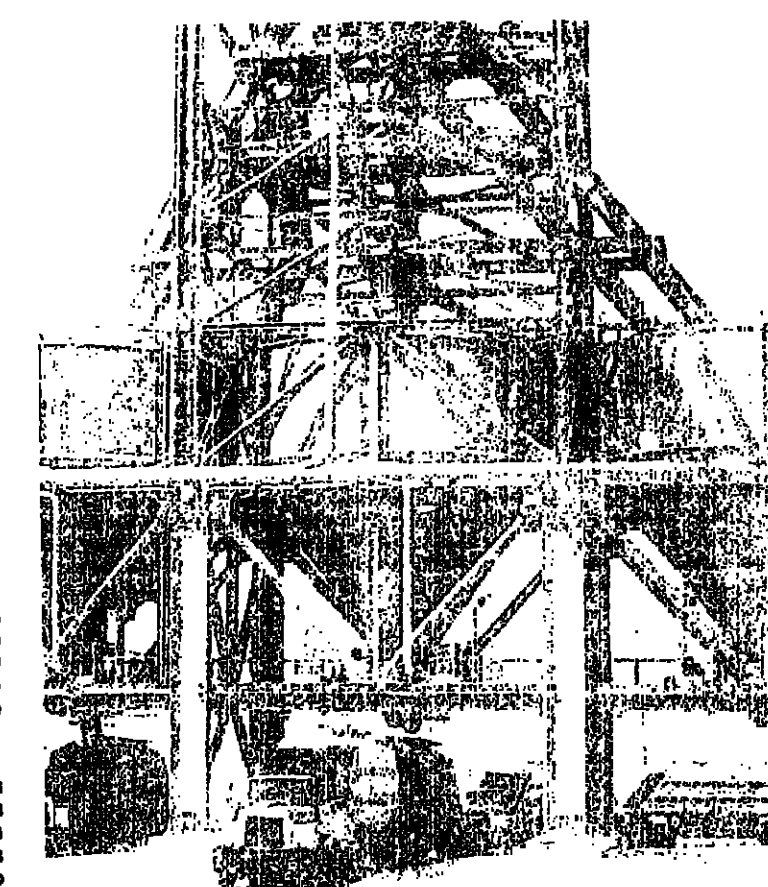
Screening

The product coming from the dryer goes to the screening section where it is segregated into four product grades: granular, coarse, standard and fine. The crystalline product is first screened to separate the coarse fraction (+20 mesh), the standard fraction (+48 mesh), and the fines.

Compaction

Portions of the fines and/or standard fractions can be diverted into compaction plant where this material is converted into granular product (+14 mesh) and additional coarse product. Thus the APC operation has the flexibility to meet the requirements of the world potash markets.

An anti-caking agent is added to all products in carefully controlled amounts to minimize the natural tendency of potash to agglomerate during storage and shipment. Free-flowing properties are thus insured to facilitate handling of



The loading section at the plant

these products by the customer.

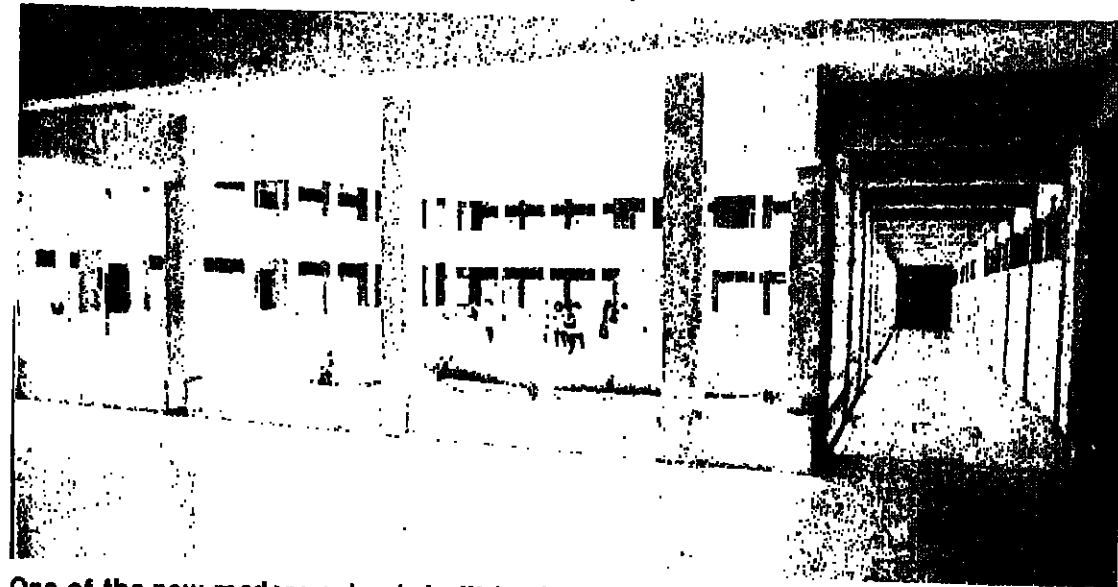
Storage-Transportation

The final product can either go to the plant product storage warehouse of 60,000 tonnes capacity, or it can be conveyed to shipping bins from which it can be loaded into spe-

cially made bottom-dump trucks for delivery to the storage warehouse at the port of Aqaba. A fleet of more than forty trucks with a capacity of 50 tons each, daily transport potash via the Safi-Aqaba road (200 km), to the storage and loading facilities at Aqaba for ocean shipment.

In implementation of recommendations of Conference on Education

MoE to abolish double shift system at its schools



One of the new modern schools built by the Ministry of Education

By Frida Mdanat
Star Staff Writer

FOR JORDAN to create a citizen who will form tomorrow's policies and meet the needs and challenges of the coming century, a reform in the national educational system as a top priority dominated the National Conference on Educational Development held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein in 1987.

The conference's recommendations, now in the process of implementation, stressed the need for a comprehensive review of the country's educational systems, including philosophy and curricula, personnel and educational environment.

"With the suitable book, teacher and school, the Ministry of Education (MOE) can ensure a

good citizen who can integrate effectively into society and guide the development process of his country", said the MOE Director General of Education, Mr Khaled Al-Shaykh.

He told The Star this week, following a statement issued by the Minister of Education Dhaqan Al-Hindawi, saying that the Ministry intends to abolish the double shift system at government schools and that this step is part of the Ministry's plans to reform the educational systems in Jordan.

"A suitable educational environment includes the ensuring of a good school structure, laboratories, workshops, playgrounds and teaching aids that are essential for the creativity and progress of the student", stressed Mr Al-Shaykh.

"The Ministry is currently undertaking steps to provide financial aid with the co-operation of the Ministry of Planning for the construction of more than one hundred schools all over the Kingdom. This step is expected to be completed by the year 1995, whereby the double shift system will be totally abolished", he said.

"The double shift system, commented Mr Al-Shaykh, goes back to 1967, in the aftermath of the war, when Jordan had to accommodate 15,000 students from the West Bank at its schools."

It is mostly practised in Amman, Irbid and Zarqa, mainly during the compulsory period, which is most vital for the formation of a student's background, allowing him to spend only an average of three to four hours at school.

"Students who do not get enough nourishment during their early years will never get it later," he added.

The MOE plan, reviewed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, recently this year, also concentrates on the qualifications of the teacher. "The corner stone in the educational process," "it has been decided," said Mr Shaykh, "that a university degree is the minimum requirement for teachers of the compulsory period, and a post graduate diploma in education for those of the secondary years."

For this purpose, a higher college for the certification of teachers is now underway. It will be operative as of the summer of 1988 and will provide tuition and training for 3,000 teachers annually. "Furthermore," noted Mr Al-Shaykh, "the MOE supervisors will be encouraged to obtain a Master's degree in education — related fields in order to ensure the proper supervision and guidance for the educational systems."

Another aspect in the educational reform which the Ministry is aiming at is the school curricula. A national committee comprising highly specialised personnel from the private and public sectors is currently reviewing the schools' curricula, text-books, and teaching methods," said Mr Al-Shaykh. "Preliminary plans will be completed this year, in the hope that the first stage of the new curricula will be used as of the academic year 1989-1990," he said.

According to Mr Al-Shaykh, the plan aims at a comprehensive, objective and scientific review of the whole educational process, which will effectively outline existing problems and come out with procedural solutions capable of ensuring a good system of education and ultimately a well-prepared citizen for the prosperous future of the country.

Customs rules

issued

ACCORDING TO Ad-Dustour daily issued on 28 March 1988, Mr Adel Al-Oda, general manager of the Customs Directorate has announced the new rules about agencies concerned with goods entering Jordan as of 1 April 1988:

A. Goods Imported to Jordan.

(1) Registered Holding Carriers contract and destination mentioned are approved to have priorities for authorization.

(2) If the carrier is not legally registered then authorization depends on the following: (a) when goods reach the CIF, the consignee is first approved, then the carrier; or (b) when goods reach the FOB, the consignee is approved, then the consignee, and then the carrier.

B. Exported goods.

They are usually exported from clearing customs centres, under which matter article no. 174 is applied. Therefore, the owner of goods (the consignee) has the right of authorization.

C. Arab transit goods.

(1) Authorizations are approved according to the Arab Transit Accord providing that Jordan is only a transit area.

(2) If Jordan is the destination of goods then special arrangements are to be made.

D. Ordinary transit goods.

(1) If Jordan is the destination then follow part (A).

(2) If Jordan is the transit area then authorization follows the arrangement: carrier-consignee, consignee.

E. Special Conditions.

(1) Carriers have to hand in certificates of their registration as obligors to the Customs Directorate and authenticated copies to the border's centres.

(2) Authorization is personal and cannot be endorsed.

(3) Authorizations issued by the Notary Public have the priority followed by ones issued by the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, then the ones issued by Banks.

(4) If an authorization follows another then it has to cancel the previous one and specify the name and date of the previous one.

(5) A clearing company does not have the right to authorize another clearing company to declare goods.

(6) An authorized clearance at the entry centre has the right to delegate another clearing company at the exit centre to supervise. Its guaranteed contents declare that if the company does not have a licence at the exit centre.

F. The above-mentioned authorization rules are applied on goods at entry centres until the preliminary procedures are followed to send the goods to the customs warehouses. The clearance procedures from customs warehouses are applied under article no. 174 of the customs law no. 16 for 1983.

THE JERUSALEM STAR

Local contractors get a fair share

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

SOME \$140 million of the recent \$300 million Japanese loan to Jordan will go for infrastructure development, and the Jordan Construction Contractors Association (JCCA) will be working hard to ensure that most of the work it generates will go to Jordanian contractors.

Mr Ali Abu Raghab, who was re-elected recently as JCCA president, says he can see no reason why the work should go to foreign companies when local companies are available. He says if this work goes to local companies Jordan's first and second grade contractors would be well placed for the next two to three years and there would be a flow-on of benefit to other contractors.

Mr Abu Raghab is also considering setting up local consortiums to bid for other major projects coming up, including Al-Wadiah dam and a substantial share of a major Telecommunications Corporation project to expand the telephone network. "In both cases," he says, "local companies have the expertise

and equipment to act as main contractor, and foreign specialists could be sub-contracted where necessary."

The more aggressive approach by the JCCA to promoting local companies has been spurred by the steady decline in the construction sector since 1983. Mr Abu Raghab estimates that the sector overall is working at no more than 30 per cent of its capacity, and 1987 figures show yet another decline in the value of contracts awarded.

The total value of contracts awarded in 1987 was JD 320 million, with the public sector taking JD 155 million and the private sector JD 165 million, down from a 1986 total of JD 373 million of which JD 193 million was public sector and JD 180 million was private sector. Of the 1987 amount 25 per cent of public sector work was awarded to foreign companies and a further 17 per cent to Arab companies.

Mr Abu Raghab sees the entry of Arab companies into the market as some improvement as they are more inclined to subcontract to local contractors, to hire local engineers and to purchase local materials.

chase local materials.

The JCCA can count a number of successes in its efforts to promote the interests of local contractors. Projects now funded totally from the Jordanian budget are now limited to local companies unless the work is of a technical nature that requires foreign specialists. The Prime Minister also directed that projects, whether funded locally or from outside, should be divided into "parcels" of work worth around JD 500,000 wherever possible in order to discourage foreign interest and to make the work more available to local companies.

The JCCA president would still like to see the government negotiating harder with foreign aid agencies to give local companies a bigger share of work.

A number of institutional measures to strengthen the contracting sector have also been carried out over the past couple of years. A major step was the introduction of a new contractors law at the beginning of 1987 which obliges all contractors, local and foreign, working in Jordan to belong to the association. A re-classification of lo-

cal companies was then carried out as a first step in providing a stronger institutional base for the industry. A new arbitration law and a re-working of the general conditions of contracts to bring them closer to the FIDIC conditions have now been completed and are under final consideration.

The government has also approved in principle JCCA recommendations on the encouragement of mergers and on the establishment of a specialist company to undertake contracting work outside Jordan. In both cases the association has been asked to study the practical application of both ideas.

The government already offers a range of tax and other incentives for industrial and insurance companies which merge and the same incentives should be available for constructing companies. Mr Abu Raghab says that a number of small companies have already expressed interest in merging but that it is the bigger companies that need to merge in order that there may be a position to compete with foreign companies, both at home and abroad.

First test tube girl born



Dr Zaid Kilani carries the newly born test tube baby

By Lama Kilani
Special to The Star

ALMOST A year has passed since the first birth of test-tube babies took place here in Jordan. The term test-tube baby

means the conception of a baby outside the womb using the mother's own and the father's sperm, and the subsequent transfer of the embryo or several embryos after conception to the mother's womb, where the

success rate in establishing pregnancy is 40 per cent.

The test-tube baby or In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) programme was founded in Jordan by Dr Zaid Kilani with the help of a Jordanian team. The supervising medical team consists of Dr Zaid Kilani, Dr Ahmad Fayoumi, and Dr Reja Karaki, the biologists behind the programme are Dr Fou'ad Hashweh, Miss Una Kahwall, Miss Suha Dabbagh and Mr Saher Ghunelm.

A baby-girl was born only three weeks ago in a Jordanian hospital in Amman. The twenty-six year old mother has been infertile for six years after an ectopic pregnancy which damaged her tubes. This brave woman has tried IVF three times. The first and second tries were unsuccessful, but she has been patient, courageous and extremely hopeful.

Her third try proved to be successful, and to her delight, she was diagnosed as pregnant. After thirty-nine weeks she went into labour. The paediatrician Dr Abdel Kareem Al-Zaga attended the birth and the baby from then onwards. In an interview with The Star, Dr Al-Zaga said that the mother had an easy normal birth, she did not need any drugs for the pain and the baby was delivered with surprising ease by the labouring mother to the de-

light of her obstetrician, Dr Zaid Kilani. The baby-girl weighed 2,950 Kg, and the mother had a full-term pregnancy. The baby-girl did not need any help breathing, for she cried immediately. She was put in an incubator for the night just in case, and her mother breastfed her the very next morning.

People have the mistaken idea that a test-tube baby is somehow different, that it is abnormal, but Dr Al-Zaga emphasizes the fact that there is nothing different about a test-tube baby, they even have an added advantage over other babies in that their exact conception date is known.

There is no need to think any differently about them, for they are a way of giving childless parents the gift of having their very own baby with only a little assistance given to nature in the process. "The joy the parents experience is immense and we thank God that science has developed to such an extent," he said. There is no need for resorting to fear embarking on this programme, but, of course, he said, there is no guarantee that undergoing the programme would yield a baby. Dr Zaga says it is worth the try for the rewards at the end, if everything was O.K. and the pregnancy was established, are enormous.

For this purpose, a higher college for the certification of teachers is now underway. It will be operative as of the summer of 1988 and will provide tuition and training for 3,000 teachers annually. "Furthermore," noted Mr Al-Shaykh, "the MOE supervisors will be encouraged to obtain a Master's degree in education — related fields in order to ensure the proper supervision and guidance for the educational systems."

Another aspect in the educational reform which the Ministry is aiming at is the school curricula. A national committee comprising highly specialised personnel from the private and public sectors is currently reviewing the schools' curricula, text-books, and teaching methods," said Mr Al-Shaykh. "Preliminary plans will be completed this year, in the hope that the first stage of the new curricula will be used as of the academic year 1989-1990," he said.

According to Mr Al-Shaykh, the plan aims at a comprehensive, objective and scientific review of the whole educational process, which will effectively outline existing problems and come out with procedural solutions capable of ensuring a good system of education and ultimately a well-prepared citizen for the prosperous future of the country.

31 MARCH 1988

Dr Soderstrom visits Jordan

AT THE invitation of the Swedish Embassy in Amman, Dr. Hans Soderstrom, Executive director of the Center for Business and Policy Studies in Stockholm visited Jordan on 28 March 1988.

where he delivered a lecture at the Association of Banks in Jordan. The theme of the lecture was "The rise and decline of Keynesianism in the Western Economies." On Tuesday, 29 March, Dr Soderstrom gave another lecture entitled "Exchange rate strategy and real adjustment after 1970—the experience of the smaller European economies," at the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences at the University of Cairo.

During his visit, Dr Soderstrom also had meetings with Dr Adeb Haddad, executive director of the Central Bank of Jordan and Dr Ahmad Mango, economic adviser to Crown Prince Hassan.

On Monday evening, 28 March 1988, Mr Olof Hultgren, charge d'affaires of the Swedish Embassy, hosted a reception in honour of Dr Soderstrom. The Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Dr Wadi Sharaha, gave a lunch for Dr Soderstrom before he left for Cairo, where he will lecture at the University of Cairo.

Trade Balance favours the Swiss

A SWISS trade delegation, headed over by Dr Silvio Arioli, undersecretary of the Swiss Ministry of Public Economy has arrived in Amman on Thursday, 24 April 1988. This is the third Swiss mission to follow up the implementation of the economic co-operation agreement signed in November 1978 between the two countries. Noteworthy to mention that Switzerland agreed in 1986 to grant Jordan a soft loan amounting to JD 15 million to finance different projects.

The delegation stayed in Amman for a week where they were scheduled to meet with the Minister of Industry and Trade, the Minister of Planning, the Minister of Public Works, the Minister of Tourism, and the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources. They also paid visits to the Royal Scientific Society, the Sea-Port of Aqaba, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry where they met with Jordanian businessmen to examine possibilities of importing Jordanian products, mainly agricultural.

According to sources, the Swiss are aware that the balance of trade between the two countries is completely in their favour. Jordan imports a variety of products ranging from heavy machinery to foodstuffs and textiles amounting to JD 10 million annually.

On the other hand, Jordan's main products, phosphate and potash do not interest the Swiss because of environmental reasons.

New projects, good profits

AMMAN (Star) — According to Jordan Islamic Bank financial statements, as of 31 December 1987, published in Ad-Dustour daily on 23 March 1988, the bank reported a net profit of JD 824,782. Total assets amounted to JD 197,418,645 of which JD 86,959,076 were in current assets, and the balance (JD 131,457,570) was in fixed assets.

As for the total current liabilities, they amounted to JD 31,228,187, deposits amounted to JD 168,503,860 of which revolved profits and reserves amounted to JD 4,115,404.

According to the Board of Directors report for 1987, nine per cent in dividends are to be given to the bank's shareholders.

Counter-trade

AMMAN (Star) — In a seminar held by the Central Bank of Jordan, Mr Hamdi Tabba, Minister of Trade and Industry, discussed issues in counter-trade expressing Jordan's interest in reviving such form of international trade. The minister was speaking, on Monday 28 March, to delegates from Midland Bank, UK and other Jordanian bankers and businessmen.

Addressing participants, as well as Mr Hussain Al-Qasem, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, who touched upon the viability of counter-trade within the concept of international trade in general, and in trade practices experience by developing countries in particular.

Highlights

By a Star Staff Writer. COUNTER-TRADE, being widely used by socialist countries, is now a form of trade which is being developed within the framework of capitalist countries' economies. The method not only helps developing countries fulfil their needs

of imports through creating outlets for their dormant exports, but also paves the way to developed countries to market their goods overseas and revive their economies.

In theory, and pure economic terms, counter-trade overcomes recessionary factors and fosters inter/intra-national trade. In form, it is a method of foreign trade financing, which relies on the exporter's acceptance in part or as a whole of his returns in a form of commodities from the importer. Counter-trade is exercised through various applications such as: barter transactions, compensation agreements, counter-purchase agreements, products buyback, acceptance and switch agreements.

Counter-trade transactions have become internationally a common practice, and will be more used by oil producers in Middle Eastern countries owing to the downturn in their exports. It is argued that such form of trade is useful to oil-producing countries in order to enable them maintain their share in the foreign markets.

The Summer Standard Time

We wish hereby to draw the attention of our native brothers to the Cabinet's resolution decreasing the implementation of the summer standard time in the Kingdom as from 1 April 1988. This direction should be carried into effect by setting the clock ahead by sixty minutes as from 12:00 o'clock of the evening of the Thursday * falling on 31 March 1988; and shall continue in operation till 7 October 1988.

The objective of the aforementioned resolution is to help the nationals to make use of the long daytime hours, and of the sunshine, during the summer-days.

THE JERUSALEM STAR 7



Regional Tenders

Algeria

Welding generator. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of welding generator. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Building equipment. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of building equipment. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Welding machine. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of welding machine. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Telephone. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of telephone. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Potato-plant seedlings. Supply of potato-plant seedlings. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Chemicals. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of chemicals. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Spinning equipment. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of spinning equipment. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Cutting machines. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of cutting machines. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Electricity line equipment. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of electricity line equipment. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Aerial circuit breakers. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of aerial circuit breakers. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Anticorrosion. Supply of anticorrosion. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

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Al-Sherq Police Station, Tarek Bin Ziad Street, tel. 44048 c/c k.

Medical registration equipment. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of medical registration equipment. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Refrigerators and kitchen equipment. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of refrigerators and kitchen equipment. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Rel traps. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of rel traps. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Heat exchanger water tank. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of heat exchanger water tank. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Microfilm system. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of microfilm system. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Reggery. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of reggery. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Semimless pipes. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of semimless pipes. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Building construction. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of building construction. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Services building construction and maintenance. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of services building construction and maintenance. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Free extinguishers. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of free extinguishers. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Telecommunication line plant material. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of telecommunication line plant material. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Fire extinguishing system. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of fire extinguishing system. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Alcohol-diluting OAM and repair. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of alcohol-diluting OAM and repair. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Steam turbine station expansion. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of steam turbine station expansion. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Antibiotics, ointments, creams and drops. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of antibiotics, ointments, creams and drops. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Dental equipment, instruments and chemicals. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of dental equipment, instruments and chemicals. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Details of the following two tenders may be obtained from Directorate of Contracts & Administration, Ministry of Defence, P.O. Box 552, Baghdad, tel. 21222 min. d. cable COTDEF BAGHDAD.

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Antibiotics, ointments, creams and drops. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of antibiotics, ointments, creams and drops. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Insecticides. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of insecticides. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Atmospheric land surveyance project. CD extension. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of atmospheric land surveyance project. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Hubbush bins. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of Hubbush bins. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Cement mill steel mill. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of cement mill steel mill. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Microfilm camera and developer. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of microfilm camera and developer. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Reggery. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of reggery. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Semimless pipes. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of semimless pipes. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Building construction. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of building construction. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Services building construction and maintenance. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of services building construction and maintenance. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Free extinguishers. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of free extinguishers. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Telecommunication line plant material. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of telecommunication line plant material. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Fire extinguishing system. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of fire extinguishing system. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Alcohol-diluting OAM and repair. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of alcohol-diluting OAM and repair. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Steam turbine station expansion. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of steam turbine station expansion. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Antibiotics, ointments, creams and drops. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of antibiotics, ointments, creams and drops. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Dental equipment, instruments and chemicals. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of dental equipment, instruments and chemicals. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Details of the following two tenders may be obtained from Directorate of Contracts & Administration, Ministry of Defence, P.O. Box 552, Baghdad, tel. 21222 min. d. cable COTDEF BAGHDAD.

Antibiotics, ointments, creams and drops. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of antibiotics, ointments, creams and drops. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Dental equipment, instruments and chemicals. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of dental equipment, instruments and chemicals. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

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Dental equipment, instruments and chemicals. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of dental equipment, instruments and chemicals. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Video/audio distribution switching system. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of video/audio distribution switching system. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Atmospheric land surveyance project. CD extension. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of atmospheric land surveyance project. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Hubbush bins. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of Hubbush bins. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

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Building construction. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of building construction. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

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Fire extinguishing system. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of fire extinguishing system. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

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Dental equipment, instruments and chemicals. Tender No. 01/88. Supply of dental equipment, instruments and chemicals. Details on payment of AD 200. CD 8 April.

Financial Market Weekly Report

A deceptive increase witnessed

By Dina Al-Zorba
Star Financial Market Analyst

COMPARED WITH last week's analysis, the trading volume, number of shares and number of contracts increased by 24,385 per cent, 13,021 per cent and 5,797 per cent respectively. However, this is a deceptive increase since handling last week was for four work days compared with five work days this week. In fact, the market witnessed a sharp decrease compared with the week before the last, the trading volume, number of shares and number of contracts has actually decreased by 53,256 per cent, 69,393 per cent, and 50,781 per cent respectively.

This week a total of 994,241 shares was handled, recording a total market volume of JD 1,331,885, divided among 1,387 contracts, bringing the handling average to JD 266,377 per day. In the Over-The-Counter Market, a total of 69,896 shares was handled, at a total trading volume of JD 40,974.

The shares of 81 companies were traded, classified as follows:

Share of Market This Week	Last Week	Prices	Total	Weekly Entries
		+ - 0		
Banks	24.254%	21.670%	3 11 6	20 67
Insurance	15.723%	5.575%	1 2 2	5 13
Services	2.541%	2.761%	1 2 5	8 26
Industrials	57.482%	69.999%	5 13 9	27 104
Total			10 28 23	60 210

The daily trading volume, as proportionate to the total market (JD 1,331,885), was as follows:

This Week				
22.3.88	23.3.88	24.3.88	25.3.88	26.3.88
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday
19.199%	24.212%	18.167%	20.800%	16.973%
Last Week				
32.291%	25.141%	25.832%	16.101%	

Prominent firms, whose shares were traded in the market, were as follows (share of market, share of sector):
— Arab Bank Ltd. 7.080%, 29.193% — Jo. Bank 4.442%, 18.314% — Jo. French Ins. 4.235%, 26.934% — Universal Ins. 11.086%, 70.510% — Jo. Electricity 0.819%, 32.209% — Araba Aluminum Ind. 4.949%, 8.610% — Intermid Petro-Chem. 11.427%, 19.899% — Jo. Line & Silc. Brick 2.927%, 5.092% — Universal Chem. 3.660%, 6.367% — Aladdin 4.339%, 7.375% — Jo. Cement Fac. 3.673%, 6.390%.

The following is a presentation of the sectoral handling per day of the total market:

	Banks	Insurance	Services	Industrials
22-3	18.039%	17.852%	2.685%	63.424%
23-3	38.488%	10.187%	3.319%	48.027%
24-3	23.295%	37.083%	1.352%	38.271%
25-3	19.890%	0.728%	0.679%	78.703%
26-3	19.654%	15.938%	4.870%	59.538%
Weekly Average				
This Week	24.273%	16.354%	2.581%	57.593%
Last Week	22.415%	6.058%	4.257%	68.768%
Difference	+ 1.058	+ 10.296	- 1.676	- 11.175

Bonds & Notes

Development Bonds

Maturity	Rate	Per annum	288 bonds for	JD 3,035	26.3.88
1989	8 1/4%	per annum	288 bonds for	JD 3,035	26.3.88
1990	8 1/2%	per annum	80 bonds for	JD 856	26.3.88
1991	8 1/2%	per annum	20,000 bonds for	JD 22,040	26.3.88
1992	8 1/2%	per annum	1,250 bonds for	JD 13,568	27.3.88
1993	8%	per annum	210 bonds for	JD 2,279	26.3.88

Stock market closes lower

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock prices declined broadly on Monday, 28 March, 1988 dampened by new declines in the U.S. dollar and lingering anxiety about Wall Street's own strength.

Many investors had their new-found confidence shaken late last week, when stocks fell sharply on Thursday and Friday. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials tumbled around 45 points on Friday after falling nearly 44 points in the previous session — sparking fears that Monday's session could turn into another "Black Monday" akin to Oct. 19.

But Monday's decline was tempered by some "Bargain Hunting" buying at the lower price levels, traders said. They noted, though, that many foreign investors and financial institutions remained on the sidelines.

Although Monday's losses were more moderate, analysts said they reflected a bearish sentiment that continues to hang over the market. "It will take a while before this blows over," said Richard Schmidt, an analyst for Advest Inc. Financial Firm in Hartford, Connecticut. "We're testing some lows here."

The anxiety was deepened Monday by fresh declines in the battered dollar on world currency markets.

"We're again hooked to the dollar," said Monte Gordon, director of Research for Dreyfus Corp. The market continues to hallow in confusion and uncertainty."

Telephone numbers: University of Jordan 679134, Ministry of Public Works 668481, General Supply Department 641485, Ministry of Education 668181/10 lines, Royal Society 647700/701, 668185, Royal Jordanian 679263, Jordan Cement Factory 685100, Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. 680144, Jordan Electricity Authority 815015, Water Authority 668111, Directorate of Buildings 648145/642842.

Handwritten signature and date: 31 MARCH 1988

Euro - Deposit Rates

	\$	DEM	LIT	FF	DFL	SF	YEN		Sterlin Pound
1 M	6 11/16	3 1/4	11 1/48		3 15/16	1 1/2	4 1/4	1M	8 3/8
2 M	6 3/4	3 1/4	11 1/48	5/16	4 1/16	1 9/16	4 1/8	2 M	8 3/4
3 M	6 3/4	3 1/4	11 1/48	7/16	4 1/16	1 13/16	4 1/8	3 M	8 25/32
6 M	7	3 3/8	11 1/48	5/8	4 3/16	2 3/16	4 1/8	4 M	8 7/8
9 M	7 3/16	3 5/8	11 1/48	11/16	4 1/4	2 7/16	4 1/8	5 M	8 15/16
1 Year	7 7/16	4	11 1/48	3/4	4 3/8	2 11/16	4 1/8	6 M	8 15/16
2 Years	8	4 5/8						9 M	8 3/16
3 Years	8 5/16	5						1 Year	9 5/16
4 Years	8 6/16	5 1/4							
5 Years	8 13/16								

Source Finance & Credit Corp (F.C.C.) Amman.

Arab Deposit Rates

	Saudi Riyal	Kuwait Dinar	Bahraini Dinar	U.A.E. Dirham
1 M	6 1/2-1/4	5 1/4-3/4	6 5/8-7/8	6 5/8-1/4
2 M	6 3/4-1/2	5 3/8-4/8	6 5/8-5/8	6 5/8-1/4
3 M	6 13/16-11/16	5 3/8-4/8	6 5/8-5/8	6 5/8-1/4
6 M	7 1/4-7	5 3/8-4/8	6 3/4-5	6 7/8-1/2
1 Year	7 5/8-3/8	5 1/2-5	7-8 3/8	7 1/4-5/4

Source: Arab Bank L.T.D., O.B.U., Bahrain Spot 28.3.1988

Dollar - Gold

LONDON (AP) — Dollar rates in European Trading:

	Monday 28.3.88	Friday 25.3.88	Monday 21.3.88
DEM	1.6805	1.6760	1.6898
SFR	1.3705	1.3685	1.3970
FRF	5.6275	5.6860	5.7440
DFL	1.8885	1.8820	1.8983
LIT	1.231.00	1.241.00	1.260.75
CA \$	1.2377	1.2433	1.2470
YEN	124.4	124.45	127.35
£	1.8590	1.8360	1.8300
GOLD	454	451.70	445.80
SILVER	6.63	6.62	6.37

Exchange Rates

	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
S.Riyal	91.4	92.4	\$	333.7
L.Lira	0.95	0.98	£	614.2
S. Lira	6.5	6.9	DEM	199.6
I.Dinar	182.5	170	SFR	241.5
K.Dinar	1244	1254	FRF	58.6
E.Pound	147	157	Yen (100)	277.1
U.A.E. Dir	93.4	94.4	DFL	187.8
Q.Riyal	94	95	SKR	56.5
O.Riyal	888	898	LIT(100)	27
B.Dinar	905	915	BFC(10)	95.5

Corporate Scene

Insurance companies announce merger

THE REGISTRAR of Companies at the Ministry of Trade and Industry announced in Addis Ababa, on 23 March 1988 the Al-Sahra Insurance Company, Egypt; New India Company, India; and United Insurance Company, Jordan, had declared a merger on 1 January 1988. All procedures have been completed as of 21 December 1987. On 25 February 1988, the Joint Extraordinary Board of the emergent company held a meeting with an appropriate quorum, and decided the following:

(1) Approval of the final merger as from 1 January 1988, as well as approval of the various merger procedures. In addition to the results arrived at by the merger committee, including this report, issued by the Temporary Management Committee.

re-estimation and the inaugural balance of the company resulting from the merger as of 1 January 1988.

(2) Approval of the capital of the emergent company in the amount of JD 1.5 million, divided into 1.5 million shares (JD one per share), the residue of the share-holders shares, which amounts to JD 168,783, is to be transferred to the statutory reserve account.

The capital is to be divided among the three companies according to the following (share-weight):

1- United Insurance JD 1,260,000
2- Al-Sahra Insurance JD 293,000
3- New India JD 80,000

(4) Approval of the Articles of Incorporation and the organizational chart of the merger company, to be called: United Insurance Company, Ltd.

Amman Financial Market

THE FOLLOWING is a list of 60 trading companies at the Amman Financial Market, listed in the following order: 1-10 companies which gained, 11-38 companies which lost, and 39-60 companies which had no change in the price of their shares.

	Opening	Closing	Change
1- Jo Kwt. Bank	1,530.1560		+ 0.020
2- Al-Ahl. Fin. Inv.	1,600	1,820	+ 0.020
3- Arab Bank Ltd.	112,900	113,750	+ 0.850
4- Universal Ins.	0.840	1.100	+ 0.260
5- Nat. Lines	0.840	0.850	+ 0.010
6- Jo. Phosphate Mines	2,200	2,280	+ 0.080
7- Jo. Tanning	1,930	1,950	+ 0.020
8- Jo. Lime&Silic Brick	0.240	0.250	+ 0.010
9- Jo. Wood Ind./JWICO	1,270	1,280	+ 0.010
10- Dar Al-Dawa	1,470	1,480	+ 0.010
11- Housing Bank	1,820	1,800	- 0.020
12- Arab Inv. Bank	2,120	2,100	- 0.020
13- Jo. Fin. & Inv.	1,880	1,870	- 0.010
14- Fin&Credit	0.580	0.570	- 0.010
15- Nat. Portfolio	0.820	0.810	- 0.010
16- Bank of Jordan	18,100	15,450	- 0.650
17- Jo. Gulf Bank	1,180	1,180	- 0.020
18- Nat. Bank of Jo.	2,460	2,450	- 0.010
19- Jo. Eq. Hire	0.770	0.780	+ 0.010
20- Jo. Islamic Bank	1,740	1,700	- 0.040
21- Dev. Fin. Fac. Inv.	0.600	0.580	- 0.020
22- Jo. French Ins.	5,200	5,150	- 0.050
23- Yarmouk Ins. & Reins.	1,100	1,080	- 0.020
24- Dar Al-Sha'ab Press	0.400	0.380	- 0.020
25- Ta'jirco Eq. Hire	0.820	0.810	- 0.010
26- Jo. Dairia	1,020	1,030	+ 0.010
27- Arab Aluminium Ind.	1,840	1,830	- 0.010
28- Arab Pharm. Mgt.	2,080	2,050	- 0.030
29- Nat. Steel	2,880	2,830	- 0.050
30- Arab Chem. Deter.	4,350	4,250	- 0.100
31- Intermed. Petro-Chem	1,450	1,430	- 0.020
32- Paper&Cardboard Ind.	3,150	3,000	- 0.150
33- Jo. Pipes Ind.	1,170	1,150	- 0.020
34- Jo. Ind. & Machs	0,720	0,700	- 0.020
35- Jo. Sulpho-Chem.	2,800	2,750	- 0.050
36- Jo. Cement Fac.	1,080	1,080	- 0.030
37- Jo. Rockwool	0,640	0,620	- 0.020
38- Jo. Pet. Ref.	7,070	7,080	+ 0.010
39- Darco	450	—	0
40- R.Es. Inv.	0,420	—	0
41- Petra Bank	2,000	—	0
42- Jo. Fin. House	0,160	—	0
43- Cairo-Amman Bank	30,000	—	0
44- Ind. Dev. Bank	1,340	—	0
45- Ahila Nat. Ins.	1,270	—	0
46- Philadelpia Ins.	0,680	—	0
47- Jo. Electricity	1,460	—	0
48- Livestock&Poultry	0,750	—	0
49- Petra Ent. Eq. Hire	0,680	—	0
50- Jo. Gulf R.Es	0,320	—	0
51- General Inv.	1,320	—	0
52- Arab Paper Tr. Mgt.	0,350	—	0
53- Jo. Glass Fac.	1,010	—	0
54- Chem. Ind.	1,680	—	0
55- Universal Chem. Ind.	1,690	—	0
56- Aladin	1,380	—	0
57- Spinning&Weaving	0,830	—	0
58- Cables & Wires	0,980	—	0
59- Nat. Ind.	0,500	—	0
60- Woolen Ind.	0,850	—	0

Money market

Gulf Currencies

S.Riyal	3,7490-10
K.Dinar	27,490-10
B.Dinar	3,7690-10
Q.Riyal	3,6390-20
O.Riyal	3,8495-05
L.Lira	383-385
U.A.E.Dh	3,6720-40

Source A.B.L., O.B.U., Bahrain

GOLD IN JORDAN

AMMAN (Star) — Prices on Tuesday, 29 March 1988, were as follows:

18 ct. JD 3.750 per gramme
21 ct. JD 4.300 per gramme
24 ct. JD 5.400 per gramme
One kilogramme (9999) JD 5,000.000
Ounce... JD 168.000
Sterling Pound... JD 38,000
(Eight Grammes)
Rashadi Pound... JD 31,500
(Seven Grammes)

Source: Yousef Abu Sara, Jewellers, Amman.

News from Tokyo

TOKYO (AP) — The U.S. dollar recovered from an early plunge in Tokyo trading on Tuesday 29 March 1988 following a moderate intervention by Japan's Central Bank, while stock prices posted substantial gains for the second consecutive day.

Traders said that the U.S. currency's recovery during the day's trading was due mostly to technical factors, including dollar purchases by participants with dollar-short positions.

"Sentiments toward the dollar are still bearish," said a trader on condition of anonymity. "The Bank of Japan's intervention wasn't large, and much of the dollar buying was by people who recently sold dollars and were beginning to feel nervous."

The U.S. dollar now has fallen 2.78 Yen in Tokyo over the past four trading days.

The Bank of Japan began buying dollars shortly after the U.S. dollar opened at 123.88 Yen, down 0.55 Yen from Monday's 28 March close of 124.03 Yen. Traders estimated the Central Bank's purchases at about \$100 million. As usual, the bank did not comment officially on its market activity.

The dollar then reversed direction, and ended the day's trading at 124.37 Yen, down 0.06 Yen from its close on Monday. It ranged between 123.87 Yen and 124.85 Yen.

Traders said that the dollar slide was boosted by fiscal year-end buying by some corporations, since the Japanese fiscal year ends on March 31.

On the Tokyo stock exchange, the 225-share Nikkei stock average gained 330.38 points, or 1.29 per cent, closing at 25,953.08.

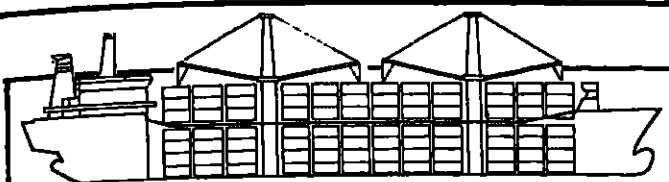
Kuwait Financial Market

THE FOLLOWING is a list of the stock closing prices at Kuwait Financial Market as quoted by Al-Anba' daily on 28 March 1988, compared with the previous closing:

Kwt. Nat. Bank	0.880	+ 0.010
GULF Bank	0.350	0
Comm. Bank	0.248	- 0.020
Ahil Bank	0.300	- 0.005
Kwt. & M.E. Bank	0.305	New Share
Barqan Bank	0.260	0
Kwt. Fin. House	0.475	- 0.005
I.F.A.	0.102	0
Inv. Pearl Kwt.	0.108	0
Ahila Ins.	0.800	- 0.010
Unl. R.Es	0.120	0
Nat. R.Es	0.224	- 0.004
Kwt. Pharm. Ind.	0.124	- 0.004
Kwt. Nat. Clin.	0.180	- 0.008
Public Warehouses	0.148	+ 0.004
Com. Mkt. OMPX.	0.020.6	0
Mobile Tele.	0.365	+ 0.005
Livestock T.T.	0.244	+ 0.002
Kwt. Computer	0.180	- 0.002

Non-Kuwaiti companies

Bahrain Int. Bank	0.088	+ 0.001
Al-Sahel Dev. Inv.	0.088	0
Arab Inv.	0.039.5	- 0.0005
Bahraini Group	0.086	New share



Vessels calling on Aqaba Port

Amin Kavar & Sons Co Red Sea Shipping Agency

SERVING AREA	NAME OF LINE	NAME OF VESSEL	ARRIVAL DATE
A- Romania (Conv.)	Navrom	Novaci	1-4-88
B- Black Sea (RO-RO)	SDP	Reutov	2-3-88
		Tanya Karfinskaya	18-3-88
		Ruzhany	27-3-88
C- Australia (Cont. + RO-RO)	Bellie	Sk. Zalk	11-3-88
		A. Goro	7-4-88
		Komsom	27-4-88
D- Yugoslavia + Med. (RO-RO + Conv.)	Jadranska	A. Trader	11-3-88
		Nodilo	15-3-88
		Pharos	7-4-88
E- Far East (Conv. + Cont.)	PIL	Kola Express	22-8-88
		Kola Mutlira	8-4-88
		Gangcheng	13-4-88
		Kola Benar	28-4-88
		Kota Jaya	28-4-88
F- GDR + North Continent + Valencia Europe (Container)	D.S.R.	Kota Retu	4-5-88
		Ronneburg	13-3-88
		Koelplisse	16-3-88
		S. Jaehn	9-4-88
		Pritzwalk	28-4-88
G- Europe (RO-RO)	Huel	Huel Tribute	13-3-88
		Huel Trapper	28-3-88
		Huel Margerita	14-4-88
		Huel Traveller	6-5-88
H- Eastern Europe (Conv. + Cont.)	POL	Zygmunt Stary	20-3-88
		Zygmunt III Waza	29-3-88
I- Brazil (RO-RO + Conv.)	Kommar	Emden	6-3-88
J- North America (Conv. + Cont.)	Oasis	Liberty	T.S.
		Confio	T.S.

Arab Containers Services Co.

- R.M.S., Stephan J. Voyage No. 43, departing Venice 21 March 1988, Ravenna 22 March 1988, arriving Aqaba 3 April 1988.
- R.M.S., Laquna, Voyage No. 44, departing Venice 28 March 1988, Ravenna 30 March 1988, arriving Aqaba 9 April 1988.
- R.M.S., Stephan J. Voyage No. 45, departing Italy 23 April 1988, arriving Aqaba 2 May 1988.
- R.M.S., Laquna, Voyage No. 46, departing Italy 3 May 1988, arriving Aqaba 13 May 1988.
- Thames, Captain Sea, Voyage No. 5, departing Brazilian Ports, arriving Aqaba 17 April 1988.
- Thames, Trident Duak, Voyage No. 4, departing Brazilian ports, arriving Aqaba 27 March 1988.
- Thames, Trident Eagle, Voyage No. 5, departing Brazilian ports, arriving Aqaba 15 May 1988.
- TBN, Voyage No. 7, arriving Aqaba June.

Jordan National Lines

- AL-KARAMEH III, VOY NO. 18019/0/48, In Aqaba 21 March 1988, 31 March 1988, Dates: R/V 08.02-31.03; SB 22.02-31.03. Duration: R/V 65 days; SB 39 days.
- HITTEEN, In Aqaba 23 April, 3 May 1988. Dates: R/V 27.02 - 03.05; SB 28.03 - 03.06. Duration: R/V 66 days; SB 37 days.
- EPDIM JUNIOR III, In Aqaba 13 May, 23 May 1988. Dates: R/V 04.04 - 23.05; SB 18.04 - 23.05. Duration: R/V 50 days; SB 36 days.

The above three vessels are enroute Suez Canal, (Al-Karamah) discharging in Bremen 21.02.88; Hitteeen discharging Nordenham 23.03.88; 27.03.88; Epdim Junior III discharging Taragona 12.04.88, 13.04.88, Antwerp, Bremen, Sheerness, Suez Canal and finally Aqaba.

T. Gargour & Fils Co.

AMMAN (Star) — T. Gargour & Fils has announced in Al-Rai daily, on 29 March 1988 that the Gearbulk Ltd. vessels schedule is as follows:

- Chesterfield V.23, Voyage No. 2/88, arriving Aqaba 9-11 April, 1988.
- Lita V.30, Voyage No. 3/88, arriving Aqaba 28 April, 1 May 1988.
- Falcon Arrow, Voyage No. 4/88, arriving Aqaba 23-26 May 1988.

The above vessels are enroute Antwerp, Hamburg, Odessa, via Aqaba, then Jeddah, Fujairah and Karachi.

Job Market-place

A prominent Bahraini company seeks a male personnel assistant to manage the Chairman's office. Applicants should have: no less than 30 years of age; experience in performing the same assignment with legal and commercial background for at least five years; speaking, reading and writing English. Application with CV, latest photo and documents of previous experience should be forwarded to: Personnel Manager, P.O. Box 5553, Manama, Bahrain.

Syigma Consultants requires a civil engineer with minimum ten years experience in road construction. Interested applicant should call 661031, 608605, Amman.

Trocon — Trans Orient Engineering & Contracting Co. Ltd. has a vacancy for a newly graduated civil engineer from an American or British University only, with a Master of Science Degree in Construction Mgmt. and Planning. Applications to be submitted to Mr Fouad I. Aghabi, P.O. Box 2078, Amman, Jordan. Tel. 672392-672393-672198.

A large industrial company in Amman, specialized in food production has a vacancy for a Production Manager Assistant with a B.Sc. in Chemistry or Agricultural Engineering, experience preferred. Interested applicants should call 618131-2-3 Amman, or write to P.O. Box 500, Wadi Al-Sir, Jordan.

Jordan Sulpho-Chemicals Company requires a laboratory director with Master in chemistry and minimum five years experience. Interested persons should call 991434-5, Al-Zerqa.

The Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology at Al-Yarmouk University requires two teaching assistants: (1) holding a Master in anthropology with experience in field researches and computers, fluent English, and typing and a Jordanian citizen; (2) holding a Master in Engravings or Somite languages and fluency in any modern language. Interested applicants should contact the Teaching Staff Affairs at the University before 16 April, 10 April 1988 respectively.

Al-Zahed Tractors in Saudi Arabia requires sales engineers. Interested applicants should write with C.V. and telephone number to Mr Mohamed A. Abu-Nawar, Sales Manager, P.O. Box 72, Dhahran Int. Airport, Al-Dhahran 31932, Saudi Arabia.

A company in Amman requires a female computer: university graduate, not less than 25 years, full time. Interested applicants should call 645964, Amman.

The National Industries Company requires an electrical engineer with a minimum five years experience and fluent English. Interested applicant should contact the company's offices, near Um Al-Siah Village, Al - Zarqa.

A large commercial company in Jordan requires the following personnel: (1) comptroller with five years' experience; (2) accountant, university graduate with minimum two years' experience; (3) new law graduate, fluent English; (4) new graduate sales representative. Applicants should have the Jordanian citizenship. Interested applicant should call 647488, Amman.

An accountant is required with a university degree in Business Administration, minimum six years' experience, preferable in service industry or particularly in advertising agency. Age between 30-35 years, English is mandatory. For interview call: 605930-680160, Amman.

15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844. 845. 846. 847. 848. 849. 850.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' 58th Annual Report

Dear Shareholders,

We are pleased to submit our 58th Annual Report including a brief economic survey of 1987.

World Economy

Economic growth in industrial countries continued in 1987, but at a lower rate than in previous years. On the other hand, both the disequilibrium in their trade balances and the deficit in the U.S. budget continued. This caused severe difficulties in financial markets, thus affecting stock prices and foreign exchange.

The average real growth of the Gross National Product in the industrialized countries was 2.4% in 1987 against 2.7% in 1986. Unemployment rates declined on average to 7.8% in comparison to 8% in the previous year. The unemployment rate in the United States fell below 6% for the first time in the last 6 years. In Great Britain, the unemployment rate fell to 10%, a 3% decrease from 1986 figures. Global inflation was at 3.3% in comparison to 2.5% in 1986.

The continued decline in economic growth in industrial countries, and the stagnation in commodity prices, affected growth in the Less Developed Countries (LDCs). This was negatively reflected on the trade balance of these countries, especially the non-oil producing ones. Accordingly, the indebtedness of the LDCs augmented alarmingly.

The disequilibrium in trade balance among major industrialized nations (United States, Japan, West Germany, Great Britain and France) was one of the major negative factors in the world economy. The United States trade

deficit was approximately US\$ 171 billion. On the other hand, the trade surplus increased in Japan and West Germany. Moreover, the deficit in the United States budget reached US\$ 148 billion. This deficit is financed mainly by foreign investments. To face inflation, and to finance the deficit in the Government budget, the United States tightened their monetary policy, increasing the interest rate on the dollar. Consequently, the prices of stocks and bonds declined drastically on a worldwide basis. This unprecedented fall in stock prices was fuelled by investors' fear of protectionism, especially in the United States. The direct losses in the stock market were approximately US\$ 19 billion. The indirect losses are predicted to be around US\$ 900 billion. Consequently, the Federal Reserve was forced to increase liquidity and lower the interest rates. This caused the value of the dollar to decline even more against all major currencies. The dollar lost on average 17% of its value in 1987. At the end of the year, most of the central banks in Europe reduced their rediscount rates in an effort to clam and stabilize the markets.

Arab economy

The volatile Iraq-Iran war reached a new level of intensity with the entry of foreign fleets into the Arabian Gulf in order to secure the continued flow of oil to the world. The Arab summit, in Amman, succeeded in increasing coordination and unity among Arab nations. We hope for continued progress and coordination.

Economically, the oil-producing countries enjoyed some growth in 1987. The Gross National Product in these countries is expected to have grown in real

terms, expected to have grown, in real terms, by an average of 1%, compared to the decline of 5% in 1986. Moreover, the inflation rate in the area is expected to be lower in comparison to the previous year. The significant decline in oil prices affected the economy of the Arab world. Early in 1987, oil prices plunged below US\$ 10 per barrel. Some Arab oil-producing countries were unable to cover current expenses and were forced to use their reserves. The oil prices climbed back to approximately US\$ 18 per barrel after OPEC agreed to a production ceiling of 16.6 Mio per day. Unfortunately, economic activities and growth in general were below what we had hoped for.

We hope that necessary measures will be taken to solve worldwide economic and political problems. International relations in general should ameliorate owing to the recent agreement between the two super powers. We also have high hopes for economic growth and stability in the Arab world. Our Bank's policies will interact with these changes in order to fulfill our Bank's objectives, to protect our clients' interests, and to participate positively in advancing worldwide prosperity.

Net Income

Arab Bank's net income in 1987 was 23.9 Mio JD in comparison to 23.5 Mio JD in 1986. The decline in the US dollar value affected most of our branches' results outside Jordan. Actually, revenues in US dollars were higher than in the previous year. Net income for the Group reached 82 Mio US\$ in 1987, compared to 76.1 Mio US\$ in the previous year. The income chart, comparing the last five years,

projects a stable net income. This stability was maintained despite conflicting variations in economic conditions, interest rates, and foreign exchange markets, as well as fierce competition in the banking industry.

Net Interest

The Bank kept the net interest without material variation, during the last five years, despite a visible decline in interest rates on major currencies and the apparent increase in the cost of external funds. The importance of demand deposits in the structure of external funds had diminished gradually in previous years, increasing the cost of deposits.

Other revenues

In 1987, revenues from commissions and foreign exchange transactions increased to 28.9 Mio JD in comparison to 24.5 Mio JD in 1986. For the Group, this revenue was 106.8 Mio US\$ against 86.4 Mio US\$ in 1986. During the last five years, other revenues grew at an annual rate of 8.3% for the Bank and 14.1% for the Group.

Expenses

The Bank was able to contain operating expenses within acceptable limits despite new services made available to the customers and additional geographical coverage. In 1987, operating expenses were 44.8 Mio JD in comparison to 43.3 Mio JD in 1986. Operating expenses for the Group reached 165.3 Mio US\$ against 149.4 Mio US\$ in the previous year. The average annual increase during the last five years was 3.5% for the Bank and 9.2% for the Group.

Shareholders' equity

It is your management's constant goal, year after year, to improve the Bank's equity ratios, taking

into consideration the growth in deposits and assets. Solid equity ratios enable the Bank to comply with Central Banks' capital requirements and to hedge against financial risks. The shareholders' equity will reach 180.6 Mio JD after your Assembly approves the proposed income distribution. The shareholders' equity in 1986 for the Bank was 164.4 Mio JD and for the Group the shareholders' equity will be 785.3 Mio US\$ against 676.6 Mio US\$ in the previous year. The Bank was able to increase its prime equity by 57.7% during the last five years. For the year 1987, net equity growth was 10% for the Bank and 16% for the Group.

Deposits and other liabilities

Funds deposited with the Bank in addition to other liabilities augmented to 3,092 Mio JD by the end of 1987 in comparison to 2,977 Mio JD for the end of 1986. On the other hand, deposits and other liabilities with the Group reached 12,607 Mio US\$ compared to 11,838 Mio US\$ in 1986. The Bank's deposit annual growth rate in the last 5-year period was 3.4% and 6.4% for the Group.

Assets

Total assets of the Bank reached 3,310 Mio JD compared to 3,188 Mio JD in 1986, i.e. a 3.8% increase. The growth of total assets for the Group was 6.7%, with total assets reaching 13,506 Mio US\$ in comparison to 12,654 Mio US\$ in 1986. Most of the variations in the growth of the Bank and Group assets were caused by the decline of the dollar value against the Jordanian dinar. This, in general, affected the balance sheet figures with the dollar representing a high percentage of the Bank's total assets.

Loan portfolio

The Bank was active in 1987 in increasing its assets productivity. This stabilized the Bank's revenues and maintained its profitability,

while, on the other hand, the Bank positively enhanced its participation in productive economic projects throughout the world with special emphasis on Jordan and the Arab countries. Accordingly, the Bank's risk assets to total assets ratio reached 32.3% in 1987 compared to 29.5% in 1986. The risk assets ratio for the Group was 26% against 23.2% for the previous year. The Bank made sufficient provision to cover doubtful debts. The provision ratio for doubtful debts exceeds worldwide accepted norms. Doubtful debts provision ratio for the Bank was 10% at the end of 1987.

Bonds

The bond portfolio, which is composed mainly of government bonds and prime securities, was increased by 64.5% for the Bank and by 67.7% for the Group. The Bank's portfolio totalled 309.8 Mio JD at the end of 1987 compared to 188.4 Mio JD in 1986. For the group, the bond portfolio totalled 1,105 Mio US\$ compared to 659 Mio US\$ in 1986.

Liquidity

The Bank was able to maintain a high liquidity ratio despite the increase in both loan and bond portfolios. The liquidity ratio in the Bank exceeds all norms worldwide. At the end of 1987, the liquidity ratio was 64.2% for the Bank and 70% for the Group. Cash in hand and at banks was 1,815.5 Mio JD and 8,352.0 Mio US\$ for the Bank and for the Group respectively in comparison to 1,981.7 Mio JD and 8,601.1 Mio US\$ at the end of 1986.

Multinational dimension of Arab Bank Limited

In 1987 your Bank continued its international expansion with a new representative office in Seoul, South Korea. This raised the total number of branches, offices, and offshore units to 73. Additionally, there are 7 non-op-

1987
1986

erating branches in the West Bank of Jordan and Gaza strip. Early in 1988, 2 new branches started operations; one in Amman, and one in Cairo. Another branch will soon start operations in Italy.

The geographical distribution of the branches is depicted in the following schedule:

| Area | Number of Branches 1987 | Number of Branches 1988 |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jordan | 26 | 23 |
| Arab Countries | 29 | 25 |
| Europe | 11 | 5 |
| U.S.A. | 3 | 1 |
| Far East | 4 | — |

Affiliates and sister companies

Arab Bank Limited affiliates and sister companies are spread worldwide. This enables your Bank to perform multidimensional activities, thus providing customers with a complete range of financial services.

Staff

In a world of rapid change, the skill and dedication of our staff are the bedrock of our achievement.

ents. In recent years, emphasis was given to high-level management training and to the specialization of banking facilities, such as credit, international banking operations and marketing. Training is continuously provided by our organization as well as by external academic and banking institutions. Our continued efforts, in updating the qualifications of all personnel, make for a constant improvement in customer services.

Automation

Your Bank is continuously utilizing modern concepts in office automation to provide excellent and faster services to its clients. This application of advanced automated systems and new techniques has also helped to reduce the running costs of the branches and General Management.

Your Bank now operates 15 computer centres throughout various countries. Additional Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) have been installed to upgrade facilities. Concurrently, progress is being made in providing to customers by way of home office banking systems.

Secure and economical communication between branches and General Management is provided by a leased telegraphic network system. The Bank is also a member of SWIFT; a network enabling communication between international banks concerning world finance. The connection to CHIPS and FED WIRE, in New York, allows for automated clearing of cheques and transferring of funds.

Appropriation of Net Profit

The Board of Directors recommends the following appropriations:

- JD 16.2 million to the reserves
- JD 7.7 million to the Shareholders at JD 3.5 per share (35% of the par value of JD 10 payable as from 30 April 1988).
- JD 14,200 as remuneration to the Members of the Board of Directors.

In conclusion, the Board of Directors wishes to express its gratitude to all clients who entrusted their business to our Bank. A special note of thanks goes to the management and staff for their continued dedicated service to our customers and shareholders.

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

ARAB BANK LIMITED

General Management
P.O. Box 950544, 960544
Shmeisanih
Amman-Jordan
Cable Bankers
Tel: 660115, 660131
Fax: 606793
Tlx: 23091 ARABNK JO

Bahrain
Offshore Banking Unit
P.O. Box 813
Government Street
Manama
Tel: 255395, 275303
Fax: 331510
Tlx: 8637 ARABNK BH

Dealing Room
Tel: 62593
Tlx: 9333 ARABFX BN
9334 ARABFX BN
9335 ARABFX BN

Commercial Branches Manama

P.O. Box 335
Government Street
Tel: 255480
Tlx: 8332 ARABNK BN

Muharraq
P.O. Box 27295
Shakh Al-Habib Street
Al-Sayegh Al-Hadi
Building No. 253
Tel: 372428

Qudjibyah
P.O. Box 2425
Shakh Al-Habib Street
Al-Moussa Building
Manama
Tel: 254335
Tlx: 7173 ARABNK BN

China
Beijing Representative Office
Citic Building 8-1
19 Jiaoguo Marway Dajie
Beijing
People's Republic of China
Tel: 5002255, Ext 3640-1
Tlx: 22739 ABLEJ CN

Cyprus

Arsia Office
P.O. Box 5700
85, Digenia Akritas Avenue
Nicosia
Tel: 457111
Fax: 457890
Tlx: 5717 ARABNK CY

Dealing Room
Tel: 4825 ARABNK CY

Nicosia
P.O. Box 5850
85, Digenia Akritas Avenue
Tel: 457111
Tlx: 5066 ARABNK CY

Larnaca
P.O. Box 855
18, Giorgos Attentio Avenue
Tel: 25200
Tlx: 5470 ARABNK CY

Limaqol
P.O. Box 343
160 A, Archbishop
Makarios III Avenue
Tel: 78878
Tlx: 5033 ARABNK CY

Agios
P.O. Box 540
C. G. Geroudis
A. Tsilipakou
Tel: 41581
Tlx: 4367 ARABNK CY

Cash Offices
Ayla Napa
11 Kiro Norg St.
Shop No. 2
Tel: 21466

Limassol
97 George A. Street
Shop No. 5
Polanis Yermasoyas
Tel: 25544
Limassol
Corner Themodan and
Tositsa St.
Tel: 73236
Paphos
24 Poulton St.
Kato Paphos
Tel: 38642

Egypt
Cairo
(Foreign Currencies)
P.O. Box 2086
24, Talaat Harb Street
Tel: 748165, 748218, 748334
Fax: 748165
Tlx: 21401 ARABNK UN
92778 ARABNK UN

Dealing Room
Tlx: 21400 ARABNK UN
92781 ARABNK UN

Cairo
Heliopolis
P.O. Box 2352 Horeya Post
52 Sawra Street
Tel: 2908578-9 & 681144
Tlx: SHRY UN 93668

Alexandria
(Foreign Currencies)
P.O. Box 2485
21, Talaat Harb Street
Tel: 4824094, 4826850
Fax: 4826550
Tlx: 54011 ARABNK UN
54032 ARABNK UN

France
Paris
B.P. 319-75365 Paris Cedex 08
75008
Tel: 43509434
Fax: 42890978
Tlx: ARABK A 842443F
ARABK A 842444F

Dealing Room
Tel: 43501250
Tlx: ARABKFX 842060F
ARABKFX 842084F

Cannes
45-47 La Croisette
06100 Cannes
Tel: 93380101
Tlx: ARABK A 842443F

Greece
Athens
P.O. Box 30357
10 Stadiou Street
GR 10333 Athens
Tel: 3255401-10
Fax: 3255519
Tlx: 219922 ARAB GR
219593 ARAB GR
219538 ARAB GR

Dealing Room
Tel: 3255515
Tlx: 221584 ABFX GR

Japan

Tokyo Representative Office
11th Floor, 24 Mori Building
23-5, Nishi-Shinbashi 3-Chome
Minato-Ku, Tokyo 105
Tel: 578-9388
Fax: 578-9359
Tlx: ARABNK J 32442

Jordan

Jordan Branches Center
P.O. Box 950545
Shmeisanih-Amman
Tel: 670192, 660115, 660131
Fax: 606793
Tlx: 23092 ARABNK JO
23683 ARABNK JO

Amman
P.O. Box 8 and 68
King Faisal Street
Tel: 638161-9
Fax: 637082
Tlx: 21273 ARABNK JO
21820 ARABNK JO
21230 ARABNK JO

Abdell
P.O. Box 926607
Amman
Tel: 627271-2
Tlx: 23416 ARABDA JO

Abu Alanda
P.O. Box 351
Tel: 731451-2
Tlx: 23640 ARABAL JO

Aqaba
P.O. Box 37
Assouk Attijari Street
Tel: 313545-6
Fax: 313546
Tlx: 62329 ARABAQ JO

Deir Alla
P.O. Box 138
Tel: 573137-8

Fifth Circle
(Jabal Amman-Amman)
P.O. Box 141107 and 141108
Tel: 822901-3
Fax: 822905

Gardens Office
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P.O. Box 658
Tel: 554935

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Tel: 660115, 660131
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Tlx: 23093 ARABSH JO
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Tel: 817148
Fax: 817019

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Fax: 631105
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Korea

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Fax: 757-0124
Tlx: ARABANK K 34180

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Centre St. Jacques
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Autostrade Daoura-Beirut
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Fax: 582408-9 Ext 220
Tlx: ARBD = 43602 LE
ARABDR = 43601 LE

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Rihani Center
Carmiche Al-Mazra'a, Beirut
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Ras Beirut
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Elias Kharir, Hamra
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P.O. Box 351
Tel: 951167-8

Sahab
Industrial City
P.O. Box 4
Tel: 722107

Salt
P.O. Box 658
Tel: 554935

Shmeisanih
P.O. Box 950546
Amman
Tel: 660115, 660131
Fax: 670564
Tlx: 23093 ARABSH JO
23094 ARABSH JO

Suwayfiyya Office
Tel: 817148
Fax: 817019

Suweilah
P.O. Box 175
Tel: 841628-7
Fax: 631105
Tlx: 51539 ARABSW JO

Wadi Saer
P.O. Box 140025
Amman
Tel: 810311, 810312
Tlx: 23698 ARABWS JO

Wahdat
P.O. Box 16067 and 620845
Souk Alkhodair Almarkazi Street
Amman
Tel: 771122-3, 782123
Fax: 744572
Tlx: 21824 ARABWA JO

Qatar

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P.O. Box 172
Q1 Al Bin Abdullah St.
Tel: 321570-3
Fax: 410774
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Alkhalaf St.
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Tripoli
Tel: 620122-3

Mina
P.O. Box 379
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Saida
P.O. Box 199
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Fax: 722072 Ext 231
Tlx: ARABSD - 23661 LE

Tripoli
P.O. Box 379
Boulevard Street
Tel: 620120-4
Fax: 370420
Tlx: ARABIT = 40715 LE

Sharjah
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Al-Bahja Street
Tel: 253944-4
Tlx: 68223 ARABNK SH

United Kingdom

London
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Empire House
8-14 St. Martin's Le Grand
EC1P 10B
Tel: 6087801
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(North Yemen)

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240926, 240927
Fax: 264187
Tlx: 2223 ARABNK YE
2611 ARABNK YE

Hodeida
P.O. Box 10812
Tel: 240155-7
Fax: 211557
Tlx: 5523 ARABNK YE
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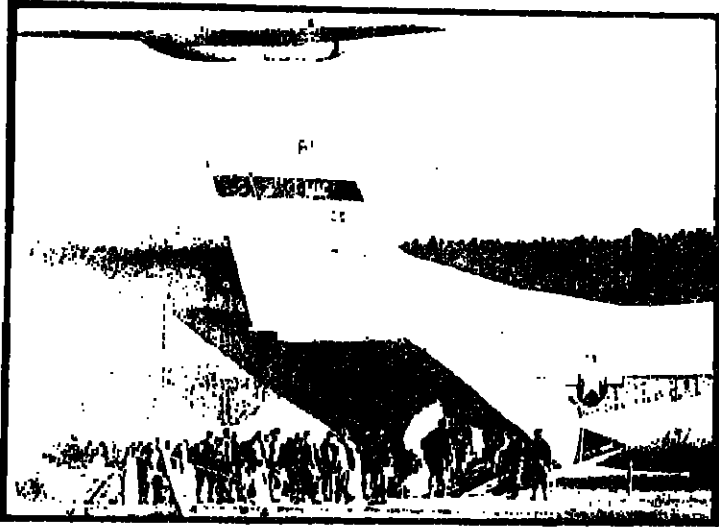
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Pope Air Force Base, N.C. Members of the 504th Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division prepare to board a C-141 aircraft for a flight to Honduras.



Panama City — still in command — Panama's embattled strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega waves to supporters in the presidential palace in Panama City.

Dubai: The liquid gas tanker "Havgilim" pictured off Dubai after being hit by Iranian gunboats. Two people died and four were seriously injured during a dawn attack which brought the number of attacks to seven over five days.

Ramallah — Chased away — An Israeli soldier chases off a girl during a protest at Al-Amari Palestinian refugee camp.

News in Pictures

Acknowledgement to the AP



Klosters, Switzerland — Avalanche above Klosters where Prince Charles, Diana and Duchess of York ski. Princess of Wales, Prince Charles, and Duchess of York (from left) at the official photo call on a slope in Klosters.



Berne, Switzerland — Shake hands — U.S. Secretary of Defence Frank Carlucci and Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov shake hands outside the U.S. Embassy in official meeting to discuss ways of preventing super-power military incidents.



Reem Qussos and Yara Shahzadeh bring a touch of Jordan to the US

By Diane C. Chlangwa
Star Staff Writer

AT FIRST glance, Lori Kopsick and Hennessey Knoop, both aged 16, do not appear to be any different from their classmates at the Ahliyyah School for Girls. They are both obliged to wear the compulsory school uniform and to attend their scheduled classes like any other student.

But unlike their classmates, they found the Jordanian school system and way of life unfamiliar six months ago when they arrived in Amman as exchange students from Westover School in Middlebury, Connecticut.

"It's been a really fulfilling and stimulating experience," says Hennessey. "But having everything that is familiar wrenched away all at once, we were placed in a situation where we were forced to adapt," she says, referring to their first few weeks in Jordan. "By allowing myself to adapt, I have learnt to think that just because something is differ-

ent does not mean that it is bad or wrong."

Lori and Hennessey are the first two students to attend the Ahliyyah School on a direct student exchange programme with Westover. This programme follows a suggestion made by His Majesty King Hussein, after he attended Princess Zain Al Hussein's alma mater in June 1986, for the school to establish a student exchange programme with a selected school in Jordan.

Following an invitation from the King, a Westover delegation came to Jordan in November 1986 and reviewed a number of schools before selecting the Ahliyyah School.

This year, two Ahliyyah students, Reem Qussos and Yara Shahzadeh — also aged 16 — are studying at Westover while Lori and Hennessey are spending this academic year in Amman. Air fares have been paid by the Royal Court.

Besides attending all sch-

Ahliyyah School hosts exchange students

educated classes and maintaining good grades, the two girls agree that this is one experience that has had a major impact on their lives as individuals.

"I hadn't any real curiosity about Jordan before coming over," Hennessey states. "It is different from the States and a more protective society but I don't feel hindered by it. Instead I feel it actually protects you!"

Commenting on her first few months in Jordan, Lori laments that she did not want to change at all. But then she adds, "I looked at the experience as a challenge for myself. I wanted to see if I could do it. Lori now admits that she has learnt patience, tolerance and finds that she now understands a lot more about people."

Both girls are housed by a host family while they are here in Jordan. This arrangement is part of the programme's aim to ensure that the students get a feel of life in a Jordanian home. This experience in turn is a benefit to the host families as well as to the students.

"I am very lucky to have her," says Mrs Amal Al-Khaili, host parent to Hennessey. "I think every family in Jordan that has the capability to host a student should do so. However," she adds, "families that decide to host a student should keep in



Hennessey Knoop and Lori Kopsick fight misconceptions about America here

mind that there are cultural differences between the student and themselves. Therefore, they should be willing to change to a certain extent in order to accommodate them. It is also important for them to realize that they are having a daughter and not a guest in the home."

Amal's husband, Tawfik Al-Khaili, agrees with her as he adds, "the whole programme is a great way to bring the two cultures together as both the student and family benefit from it."

During their stay in Jordan the girls hope to visit and see as much of Jordan as they can. Among other activities that they are enrolled in, Lori and Hennessey are members of the Friends of Archaeology Club which should give them a general view of all the various historical sites in Jordan. This experience, says Ahliyyah School Principal Headmistress, Mrs Zena Sharaha, "should contribute to making their stay here in

Jordan a more meaningful one. She adds, "It's only through getting direct contact that better understanding of cultures is achieved."

Speaking to other Jordanian students that might be interested in taking part in the programme, Lena Amine of Jordan, who participated in the American Field Service (AFS) student exchange to Norwell High School in Massachusetts in 1983-84 adds, "It is a good experience because you not only learn about your country but you also learn a lot about yourself. You feel like you are giving something to that society."

Ahliyyah School and Westover expect to exchange students again next year as members of both school boards feel very excited about the programme. Lori and Hennessey will be good ambassadors in the same way that the Jordanian girls at Westover will be when they all return to their respective countries, concludes Sharaha.

By Vanessa Batrouni
Special to The Star

AN EXCELLENT example of theatre of the absurd in a style reminiscent of the great master of the absurd, Ionesco, was performed Monday through Wednesday at the French Cultural Centre. Under the expert handling and sharp vision of director Denis Galliard, an inner landscape of fear and psychological atrophy unfolded before our eyes.

The characteristics of theatre of the absurd in the words of Irving Wardle are "the lack of any clear division between fantasy and fact, a free attitude towards time, and a fluid environment which projects mental conditions in the form of visual metaphors." Les Ballseurs D'Empire by Boris Vian supplies all the necessary ingredients. One feels quite strongly that its author, who died an early death at 39 from heart disease, was projecting his own fearful, debilitated mental state into his final drama.

The play uses the dream metaphors of the self — a house inhabited by a family of a father, a mother and a daughter, and a maid, and a neighbour to represent composite parts of a personality. Fragments of recognizable domestic reality are as well pieced together to portray an acute mental condition.

The family, laden with possessions, is forced upwards into smaller and smaller rooms by a noise (a heartbeat) issuing on the

Landscape of fear unfolds



Father Francois Le Roux comforts Mother Muriel

Photo by Aline Talantian

journey possessions and people.

The play itself is neatly structured into three acts, and the living space decreases with each act. The removal of floor carpets is used to indicate smaller rooms and the ascent upwards is symbolized by a steep ladder. The characters at the beginning move around the area as if on a chess board, sometimes waiting, back turned, on the sidelines till they are called to play a part. Their sense of space and freedom is contrasted by their controlled pawn like movements.

As the play progresses the feeling of claustrophobia is lacking, but this is more than compensated for by the dynamic and beautifully descriptive acting of the cast which, without exception, produces polished and professional performances of commendable control and variety of colour. The father, brilliantly portrayed by Francois Le Roux, is particularly exciting to

watch in his seemingly infinite catalogue of characterizations, physical dynamism and vocal power. The portrayal of the father is rich and multi-dimensional and frighteningly accurate in its details of human behaviour.

Equally well studied is the mother, played by Muriel Musallam, whose servile motherliness is a perfect complement to her overbearing and domineering husband. Throughout, the play reflects the director's incisive insight into human behaviour and human interaction with often brilliantly observed details of human activity. The embarrassed silences and manic highs of human contact and complicity are beautifully expressed in the neighbour scenes when the neighbour, played with an exceptional sense of theatre by Jean Francois Dobelle, is entertained by the parents.

This, coupled with an acute sense of rhythm both in dialogue, which is dangerously but successfully lined with long comfortable pauses, and the decorative rhythms of the heartbeat and hammerings, captures and arrests the interest of the audience from the outset. But despite the play's multi levels and contrasts of domestic trivia, psychological insights, violence and thin veneer of harmony, the inherent limitations of the theatre of the absurd become apparent towards the end when the exposition of the ideas, no matter how technically well performed, cannot fill out the time of a full length play and inevitably becomes tedious.

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31 MARCH 1988

Thursday a fund raising fair will be opened by Her Highness Princess Sarvath at the Hussein City of Youth. Sadika Saghir Hussein, wife of the Pakistani Ambassador in Amman, spoke to The Star about this two day fair.

She said that the object is reaching the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip so that they will know that we care and support them every step of the way. This fair is aimed at showing our unity, our discipline, our faith, and our strength. "For God helps them who help themselves" she adds.

Pakistani and Jordanian women have teamed up to make this fair possible. These women have felt guilty sitting at home watching what horrors the Palestinians are going through, and wanting to do something positive in order to help these people.

Many schools, women and Jordanian corporations have volunteered their efforts for this event. Among them is Al-Kanun Hotel which will give you the chance to taste Pakistani cuisine at very reasonable prices. "Aida Bustami and the Daoud family have already donated JD 100 and JD 300 respectively.

Lots of children's games and Jordanian and Pakistani products will be on sale. The money gathered will be given to several organizations, and they will make sure that the sum reaches hospitals and needy associations in the occupied territories. Those of you who would like to donate please contact the social secretary at the Pakistani Embassy.

Entrance tickets are 100 fils for children, and 250 fils for adults. Why don't you come along with your family and show that you care?

Last week Princess Basma was patron for the play "A Mother and a Dream," at the Al-Yahya School for girls. On the occasion of Mother's Day, Samar Dudin and Sihem Snobar combined their creative skills and came out with this touching creation. Dudin, the director and producer, portrayed the working mother and the conflicts that she faces in her family. The story is about a mother's dream of a better home life, where her three children and husband learn to help themselves. The early scene depicted scenes of fighting siblings, a young daughter who needed her mother's help in studying for an exam, and a hungry husband who wanted to have his lunch on time.

All this showed how everything falls on a mother's shoulders, and how she cannot cope with this situation and job simultaneously. After a good night's sleep everyone wakes up having had the same dream. A dream where everyone tries to be less dependent on the poor haggard mother.

Each scene concluded with the appearance of fairytale-like girls who commented on the action in the form of song and dance. In these interruptions, Sihem Snobar, stage and clothes designer, managed to create an atmosphere of innocence. The stage was decorated with baby blue, green and candy pink pastel materials echoed in the girls' flower-like dresses. The girls gave the impression of alien beings not only by the special light effects, but also by their pony-tails sticking up in the air, as though the concept of gravity did not exist.

All these characters were acted out by the students of the primary school, save for the mother Ruba Al-Jayeh, the father Paul Hafeez, and son Khalidoun Al-Nazer. The last two are students from the British Airways and the Amman Marriott Hotel organized a

People & events



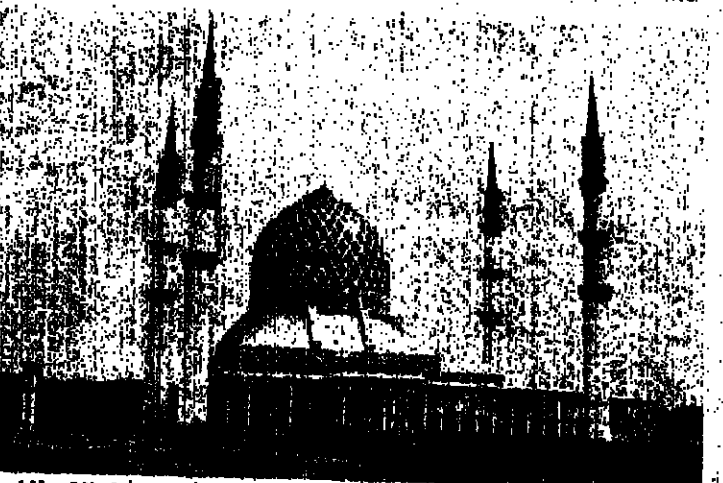
Tunisian Ambassador Said ben Mustafa greets Speaker of the Upper House Ahmed Al-Lowzi.

shop School. The fairies included Nisreen Kabariti, Dima Dahdah, and Hanadi Haddadin.

Spanish artist Maria Travesedo exhibited recently at the Spanish Cultural Centre. The artist herself was unable to attend her show so her sister, the wife of the Spanish Ambassador in Amman, and the Ambassador, Organized the exhibit, of mainly impressionist, realistic works. They accompanied Princess Wijdan Ali, patron of the show on a tour of the displayed works.

Wife of the Italian Ambassador, Giovanna Amaduzzi, French Cultural Attache, Michel Seurean, Guy Senzier, the director of the French Cultural Centre, Director of the Goethe Institute, Henrich Reinstrom, Tahseen Ojelli, the cultural Attache and Director of the Spanish Cultural Centre, his wife Natl and their son Kals. The usual crowd of artists was there such as Mukarram Tikritli, Khalid Khreis, Mahmoud Zublan, and Jamal Ashour. Some art lovers were Lana Mahas, Liza Bak, and 10 year old Ghassan Khalaf who does not let an exhibit pass him by if he can help it.

British Airways and the Amman Marriott Hotel organized a



His Highness the Sultan of Malaysia inaugurated the magnificent Masjid Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah early this month. The mosque, which cost \$160 million and which is capable of accommodating 20,000 worshippers at a time, is the biggest in the Far East.

hat, and around 300 people more.

David Buckley, newly appointed assistant head of BBC's Arabic Service has just made a week-long visit to Jordan. During his stay Buckley toured the country and talked with a number of people in an effort to familiarize himself with the Arab region and its people.

In London Buckley heads a staff of some 85 people, the majority of whom are Arab nationals representing the different countries in the Arab world. The BBC Arabic Service transmits news and current affairs programmes to the Middle East and to North Africa.

The Passion Week Programme for the Jordan Malayalese Christian Congregation begins Palm Sunday at 6 pm, at the residence of Rajan Mathai in Suweilah. Reverend Fr K.V. Kurukose has come from Syria to conduct prayers all through the week. The programme is as follows: 4 March, 6 pm, Res. of Thomas Pathrose; 5 March, 6 pm, Res. of C.J. Varughese; 6 March, Maundy Thursday 8 pm, Res. of Rajan Mathai; 7 March, 6 pm, Res. of Kurian Cherian; 8 March, Good Friday 9 am, St Ephraim Church; 9 March, 6 pm, Res. of Mr Prekash; 10 March, Easter Sunday, 9 am, at St. Ephraim Church.



BBC Arab Service's David Buckley

The Hashemite Hash House Warriors said goodbye to two more hounds Sam Whitehead and Kevin Spray on Monday 28 March. Also 60 run tankards were awarded to Marina Larson and Rennie Norman.

Hash Reminder: There will be an extra Hash on 8 April to Azrak at the normal Hash fee. Bus leaves Amra Hotel car park at 8:30 a.m.

Abu Al-Tayyeb has begun receiving well wishers, after his recent appointment as General Manager of Public Transport. Mr Abu-Tayyeb was the General Secretary for the Ministry of Youth for six years.

Dr Sally Bloomfield, from the Chelsea School of Pharmacy, University of London, arrived here in Jordan early this week. Dr Bloomfield intends to give lectures in Pharmaceutical Microbiology for the students of the University of Jordan. She also intends to visit the historic and touristic sights in Jordan. This is her second visit to Amman.

Australian Ambassador Terry Goggin is now on holiday, starting in London, then New York, and later home in Australia. But before leaving, he gave a reception to introduce his Charge d'Affaires Alison Broinowski, who turned out to be one of the most delightful lady diplomats Amman has seen. To meet her at the residence were so many people that it is difficult to know where to start. First problem, many of them were at the Greek reception that same day, but also, Terry's parties are always well-attended and last far into the evening. One new couple to Amman was there, recently-appointed Japanese Ambassador Makoto Wantanabe and wife Akiko, better known as Aki who will be a welcome addition to the Amman social circle. We wish them both a lovely stay here. Also there was a batch of evacuees from the Australian Embassy in Baghdad, all waiting impatiently to go back and, as usual, a bunch of young archaeologists. But surprise, surprise, also present in person, rather than in spirit, as usual, was the legendary Leah McKenzie! Others included Cedric and Jeannette Mortimer, Ihab Lutfi and wife Candy Proctor, Zarqa Basin's Roger Hartley, French Ambassador Patrick Leclercq, David McCreery and Anne Ogilvie from ACOR, Peter Hasou, Maurice Khalaf, visiting journalist Jenny Hewitt, Belgian Ambassador Guido Vansina and Anne Marie, John and Dona Tarpey, Pam Dougherty, Sami and Josephine Qamleh, David and Gretchen Welch, Michael Chesson, but without Zella, who could not leave baby Christopher without a babysitter, Nicholas Archer, David Withbread, Robin Joyce, Chris Hyson, Shaher and Liza Bak, Guido Carboni, Chilean Ambassador Carlos Derpech and Monona and last but not least, Dr Sami Khoury.

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Artist Samia Zarou last Saturday opened her exhibition of paintings, weaving and copper sculptures at the National Gallery, with a packed audience of friends and art lovers, who flocked to see her national and ethnic themes, inspired by the exactly 100-day-old popular uprising in Occupied Palestine. No space here to talk about her vibrant colours and mixed materials, such as stones and Palestinian embroidery, but it is worth mentioning that her children, who helped her, particularly with the copper work, were there, as well as Princess Wijdan Ali, Suhail Bisharat, Riham Ghassab, Nalla Deeb Shuwailhat, UNICEF's Richard and Fatima Reid, Farideh Meyer, with niece Diana Saleh Doake and Afaf Ibrahim, Jeannette Jawharla and sister Alice Zayed, Wadad Kawa, and Mrs Adel Khalidi, Khaleel Bitar, Dr Ahmad Jarake, Dr ward and Shadia Jaser, Abdul-Rahman and Hayat Yamghli, Maha Hussein, In'am Abdul-Hadi, Najwa Tougan, Hourieh Laraki, Nick Archer, Tawfiq Al-Sayed, Muna Saadi, Mahmoud Taha, Butros and May Khoury and crowds of artists and friends.

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Tunisian Ambassador Said ben Mustafa's reception on the occasion of National Day was a lovely luncheon one, which made people stay long after they were supposed to have left. It also included all the Tunisian delegation to the Islamic Conference, Organization's 17th Foreign Ministers' Conference. Attending were Foreign Ministry General Secretary Nabih-Nimr, Jordan's Ambassador to Tunisia Tala Al-Hassan, Moroccan Ambassador Abdul-Latif Laraki, Chinese Ambassador Zhand

Continued on Page 21

Continued from Page 20

Zhan, Italian Ambassador Luigi Amaduzzi, Soviet Ambassador Alexander Zinchuk, Czech Charge d'Affaires Emil Hrusovsky, Bulgarian Ambassador Yanko Demirev, Swiss Ambassador Harald Bomer, Chilean Ambassador and Mrs Carlos Derpech, French Ambassador Patrick Leclercq, Lebanese Ambassador Butros Ziadeh, and Aide Hussein Rammal, Middle East Airline's Elie Shouairi, Speaker of the Upper House, Ahmad Al-Lawzi, Speaker of the Lower House Akaf Al-Fayez, with Secretary Hani Khair, deputies Rizq Al-Batayneh and Salman Al-Odah, Dr Anwar and Asma Harb, PLO's Brigadier Abdul-Razzaq Al-Yahya and Mohammad Milhem, Spanish Ambassador Armengod, General Salim Al-Lawzi and General Abdul Hafez Miri, Ad-Dustour's Kamel and Mahmoud El-Sherif, Rakan Al-Majali, Faez Hamdan, Ibrahim and Jihad Haddad, Zuhair and Rima Sha'er and many, many more...

Greek National Day was March 25, but the reception given by Ambassador Hannibal Vellides was on Saturday noon, and a good one it was. Jordanian Foreign Ministry officials were late coming because they were being visited by crown Prince Hassan to congratulate



Khamis Abu Dahab (centre) has finished a circuit of Jordan on foot and plans to go next to neighbouring Arab countries.

them on the good job they did with the organization of the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference, finished the day before, but finally some members arrived including Samir Khalifah and Khaleel Obaidat. Of course, most Arab and foreign ambassadors were there, and to name but a few, Omani Ambassador Saif bin Salim bin Faral, Spanish Ambassador Roman Armengod and Rozio, Moneisler Raouf Najjar, and the Greek Orthodox clergy of Amman, PLO's Mohammed Milhem, JTV's Lina Gress, Soviet



Economy Editor Rasim Rahim puts the final touches on this week's pages — his last before leaving us for a new job under Peter Londono in the Commercial Section of the American Embassy. We wish him all the best.

People and Events cont'd

all her fans. Khronia Pola, many happy returns, to all Greek friends.

In honour of Dajoul Bin Tayeb, Air France manager in Amman, Jean Gheghoni, Air France regional manager for Jordan, Syria and Lebanon held a reception on Monday, 28 March.

The reception was held at the Marriott Hotel and attended by a number of invitees from the tourism and transport sectors and companies' administrators and press representatives.

In an interview with Ad-Dustour daily, Mr Bin Tayeb disclosed that he will do his best to foster tourism relations between Jordan and France, provide quality services and ensure passengers' comfort on board Air France. He stressed the variety of services which are available for the goodwill of the passenger and which Air France will strive to provide on all of its routes.

Attending the reception was Rafiq Sakhi, Air France manager in Lebanon, who then left Amman heading to Beirut.

A West German delegation headed by Director General of Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen (ZDF) Dieter Stolte and including Hans Kimmel and Helmut Umbach spent a few days in



Air France reception at the Marriott Hotel

Jordan this week upon an invitation by Jordan Television and Radio Director General Nasouh Al-Majali. Mr Stolte and the delegation met with his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin, Director General of Tourism Nasri Atallah, Mahmoud Al-Sherif, Ad-Dustour Chairman of the Board and German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels.

Mr Stolte told The Star that he discussed with Mr Majali means of technical co-operation and programme exchange between JTV and ZDF and the possibility of a one-hour German programme on Jordanian screens. He said that he had extended an invitation to Mr Majali who will possibly visit Germany next month to continue their discussions on mutual co-operation between the two countries television stations.

'Cookie' heads for Australia

By Leila Deeb
Star Staff Writer

TWO MEN who live barely one mile apart in the UK accidentally met on the slopes of the little Austrian town of Eima and ended up entering the London-Sydney Vintage Endurance Trial together. This event, organized by Australia to celebrate its bicentennial, covers about 24,000 kilometres, in addition to sea crossings. The idea is to prove that vintage cars from the 1920s and 1930s really could make it half-way round the world.

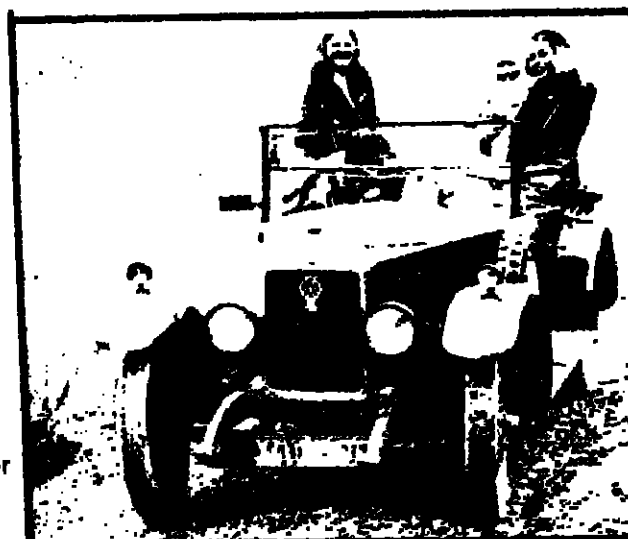
48-year-old grandfather Brian Mullineau was already a member of Soutants Vehicle Preservation Society when he met Michael Perkins, 42. Both live on the tiny island of Hailing, near Portsmouth, on England's south coast. When they met in 1986 Brian proposed entering the race and Michael's first reaction was: yes. But then the hard part started. They began looking for a vintage car, and when they found a 1924 Vauxhall 1440 Mallet in Wales, both knew they had found their car.

Michael and Brian gave us an old picture of the car with its previous owners. The little girl is now the 83-year-old Miss Cooper, who first learned to drive on this car. The two men promise that when they return home they will drive the car back to Wales to show it to her.

The blue and black car was in perfect condition. It needed only an overhaul and a paint job, turning into the yellow and black "Cookie" that many of us saw parked outside the InterContinental Hotel, where they were guests. All the original parts were kept, the two men say, adding that the engine size is 2.3 litres, 14 horse power, running at 40 km per gallon with a cruising speed of 67 kph. At the time it was built the car was comparable to a Bentley. It has turned out to be the oldest car in the rally.

It took 18 months to get the car ready, prepare their route and arrange for visas. Each took five months off work — Brian is in television distribution and

Miss Cooper takes a ride



gineering and Michael is in tourism and property. Could they afford it? The high cost is why they had to do it together: the car itself having cost £25,000 and estimated expenses another £17,000.

The two left London on 1 January, and crossed into France from Portsmouth. They drove through Paris and down through Italy to Brindisi, where they put the car on a boat to Greece. There Michael visited old haunts and surprised old friends he hadn't seen for 24 years.

In Athens they put their car on a boat, expecting it to reach Alexandria in Egypt in one week. A change of loading plans delayed arrival for a whole month, and when they finally managed to clear the car through customs in Alexandria, they found the gear box and the body damaged. This was when they really appreciated the promise made by General Motors to service their car wherever they were.

Three days of repairs took them to Cairo, where they met senior Egyptian officials, including the Minister of Tourism. They enjoyed Cairo tremendously and left it reluctantly to drive through the Sinai desert to St Katherine's and then to Nuweiba where they took the ferry to Aqaba.

"Swimming in the Red Sea was like being in a tank of fish,"

says Brian. They drove to Petra and then to Amman where The Star caught up to them on a rainy night between the Fourth and Fifth circles.

Here the two men spent their time visas to Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and UAE, willing to go through whichever country provided visas. They then drove to Oman, shipped the car from Muscat to Bombay, drove down to Madras, and shipped it again to Penang in Malaysia. From there they go to Singapore, where they put the car on yet another ship for the major sea crossing to Darwin.

"We will drive down to Sydney by the East Coast Road and arrive at the Opera House in May," they say confidently.

And for what? Each car completing the rally will receive a silver wheel mounted on a wooden plaque, testifying that this car has made it. The plaque is a tribute to the drivers too, of course, because as Brian says, "to get a 84-year-old car halfway round the world is an achievement, with all the visas, shipping, customs, etc., without losing your temper or getting depressed."

And then? When the car is shipped back to England and shown to Miss Cooper, they might put it on auction at Southey's.

Springtime in Paris

A "PRIMAVERA" worthy of Botticelli has seemingly inspired every fashion designer in the fashion metropolis of Paris. However, bestrewn with flowers, luxuriating in lace and waiting in delicate weaves — Spring is the Goddess rather than the Muse of the new season. Delicate pastels betoken the Dresden doll-like woman who stalks the runways on the longest legs in the world, often encased only in serong-like garments and filmy clouds of such fabrics as mousseline or gauze. Next there's a split-second switch to more sober fabrics such as flower-printed piqué, masculine fill-a-fill or silvery worsteds, immediately soothed by the most delicate of silks, ethereal laces or delicious embroideries. Several mens' checks enliven the soles of cashmeres with checks in the deepest black in order to join forces as coat or

couture collection, gives way to gardens full of flowers and fresh, succulent green. All the fabrics reflect the magic of spring meadows and blossoming flowerbeds.

Emanuel Ungaro features innovative cuts for his sleeves or draperies that are redolent of roses or daffodils. Designing for her haute couture house Lanvin, Maryll Lanvin transforms women into tulips, lilies or resplendent roses. Whilst this may all sound like a form of "dressing up" the new fashion message is, however, just right since no designers' love of flowers transcends the bounds of common sense. One or several flower shades often suffice to create a severe two-piece. Marc Bohan for Christian Dior is masterly at this. Christian Lacroix surprises anew with inspiration taken from his homeland. His collection is flavoured with mimosa and all the scents of the Mediterranean. To his flower colours he adds such cheerful local touches as muscels, starfish or seaweed. Bags are transformed into nets and hats into oysters.

Matisse is not far away. And yet it is above all Braque, Juan Gris, Picasso and other Cubists who turn fashion into works of art. Yves Saint Laurent once again displays his mastery here. Braque's doves flutter their flamingo-pink feathers on black costumes or cluster in white sequins over lapis lazuli blue evening gowns. Lapels on the front panels of suits look more like violins, golden Picasso heads adorn the backs of evening capes. The world's most costly painting, van Gogh's "Sunflowers" serves as inspiration for the needlewoman's art on a cocktail outfit, whilst his "Irises" provide the appropriate counterbalance. Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel draws his inspiration from Giacomelli and already has eight daytime ensembles in the "new length" striding along the cat-walk in the Museum of Modern Art. A message for next autumn? Yes, indeed! he who is successfully rejuvenating the Chanel line, he who lets short skirts swirl in the breeze, is the first to have call-length skirts flutter over match-stick legs — and is doubtless right to do so.

There is nothing weak in any of the Paris collections. Each house retains its own style and is its own source of rejuvenation. Without fabrics there would be no fashion. There were Swiss specialities en masse: piqués, cotton satins, matelassées to give a summery touch: Crêpe de chine, silks and mousselines for the lighter touch, chiffon and satin together with delicate crêpes. Wool ottoman or silk come under the heading of "soft" fabrics as do taffetas, failles and gazes. Bourette silk or India silk provide an Oriental flavour. Flower prints are everywhere, in the form of bouquets or single blooms. And for a touch of Marie-Antoinette, and there's always broderie anglaise, that eternally young St. Gall embroidery. White breathes summer into everything: piqué, organza — which is also allowed to "bloom" alongside bright white lace. And then there's crème-coloured lace to add that distinguished touch. To cap it all, Scherrer's satin-based, lace-embellished blouses. Quelle raffinesse!

As for the 1988 summer season: flower colours anilene the simplest and most classic cuts: as at Guy Laroche who dresses the world's richest women, they invigorate such perennial colours as navy, black and white with chiffon bows as in Yves Saint Laurent's daytime ensembles. Fashion of this kind uses all womankind's seductive skills: there are bare shoulders, deep décolletés, ribbons, piping, artificial flowers, gold buttons and lace, pleats and frills in abundance.

The 1988 bride will have a wide range of styles to choose from — and in a choice of lengths as well. Many of the fabrics are embroidered, and some combine rhinestones with applied motifs.

The 1988 look: emphasis on the bust, waisted, short skirt, slim legs, soft shoulders, flower calyx hips. Over it all: duster coats, long topcoats and — a new discovery — the costume à la Parisienne. Colours are: fuchsia, violet, turquoise, mandarin, grass green, azalea, poppy red, navy, pearl and beige, silver, much less black than usual and snow white.



The spring in Swiss fabrics inspires all of Paris — here a creation by Jean-Louis Scherrer.



This Laroche dress looks like a flower itself

The embroidery blouse is a must with the new soft suit (by Forster Willi)

Jacket with beguiling prints or laces. In short: a playground for Swiss design. With one Swiss house alone represented by more than four hundred designs in the 24 fashion shows it can be truly said, that haute couture and the fashion world would look totally different without fabrics made in Switzerland.

Flower power is everywhere, alongside classic beige or silver colours. Enchanting prints featuring all the flowers of the globe — with the rose as outstanding example — not only embellish the printed programmes of the designers and couturiers, but also provide the leitmotiv behind all collections. The so-called "little black dress," normally the central feature of every haute



Reem Yasin's
Cinema Corner

"The Land" of Youssef Shahin

ONE OF the very best Arabic films that glorifies land is one of director Youssef Shahin's early works, a film that has rightfully gained its place among the classics of Egyptian cinema. Produced in 1968, "The Land" (Al Ard) is based on a novel bearing the same title by the great writer Abdel-Rahman Al Sharkawi. It tells the simple but basic story of the attachment of Egyptian peasants to their land and their willingness to go to all lengths in its defence.

The setting of the film is a small village in the Egyptian countryside. The time is before the 1952 Revolution, a time when peasants were badly used and down-trodden by the authorities: the rich feudal lords, the government and the foreign domination of the country.

The film, however, transcends its local level and appeals to all people who feel violated and robbed of their right to hold on to their land and to their dignity. It also depicts the selfishness, meanness and passivity that are bound to appear among certain people when faced with crisis.

Realised twenty years ago, Shahin's technique in the film had not yet flowered into the full maturity distinguishing his more recent films. Although it is conventional and traditional in its technique, "The Land" has its memorable moments that are among the director's great sequences, especially the scene where water is released onto the scorched fields, gushing in streams through plants and making them flourish with new life.

But the film's strongest point lies in its cast. Very aptly chosen, every one of the actors (the minor as well as the major roles) portrays the character to its maximum, thus giving a realistic image of a cross-section of the village inhabitants.

Most distinguished of all is the late Mahmoud El-Mellji, in the role of the proud and honourable villager fighting for the life of his land against the forces who want to deny him water. His presence dominates the film from the very first shot opening on a close-up of his face, up until the very end when he is being dragged brutally behind the horse of the commanding government officer.

The film ends very dramatically on a shot of the blood gushing from his many wounds onto the scorched dry land, in one of the most powerful sequences the Egyptian screen has ever witnessed.

Enhancing the most effective visual impact of the final shot the music rises to a crescendo echoing the theme song of the film: "If water is scarce and our land dries up, we will most willingly give our life blood to quench the thirst of our land... It is a debt that we owe her."

Best-selling books

Fiction

1. "The Bontire Of The Vanities" Tom Wolfe
2. "Tommyknockers" Stephen King
3. "2001: Odyssey Three" Arthur Clarke
4. "The Taurus Agenda" Robert Lydium
5. "Kaleidoscope" Danielle Steel
6. "Lightning" Dean Koontz
7. "Hot Money" Dirk Frank
8. "Presumed Innocent" Scott Turow
9. "Fables Tell" Raymond
10. "Patriot Games" Tom Clancy

Non-Fiction

1. "Trump: The Art of The Deal" Donald J. Trump
2. "Elizabeth Takes Off" Elizabeth Taylor
3. "The 8-week Cholesterol Cure" Robert Kowaleki
4. "The Prize Pulitzer" Roxanne Pultizer
5. "Keeping Secrets" Suzanne Somers
6. "The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers" Paul Kennedy
7. "The Cat Who Came For Christmas" Cleveland Amory
8. "Buddy Boys" Michael Moelary
9. "Thriving on Chaos" Tom Peters
10. "Success is Never Ending" Robert Schuller



Your
TV guide

Channel
2



Maggie and Jason do their best to raise a modern family in Friday's "Growing Pains"

French Programmes

Saturday

- 5:45 Le Chevalier de Pardallion — a new series about a young knight
- 7:00 The News in French
- 7:15 Un DB de Plus: with Delia

Sunday

- 6:00 Rue Carnot, a drama series
- 6:30 L'école des Fans
- 7:00 The News in French
- 7:15 Varieties

Monday

- 6:00 Louis XI: a four-part series about the cunning king of France known as The Spider
- 7:00 The News in French
- 7:15 The weekly sports magazine

Tuesday

- 6:00 Des Chiffres et Des Lettres, a quiz show
- 6:30 Lucky Luke, a cartoon cowboy, his favorite horse and trusty dog
- 7:00 The News in French
- 7:15 Un DB de Plus: with Patrick Juval

Wednesday

- 5:30 Champs Elysees: variety show featuring Julien Clerc
- 7:00 The News in French
- 7:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie, a local magazine produced and presented by Saleh Madi

Thursday

- 6:00 Rue Carnot, a drama series
- 6:30 The Magical World of Chantal Goya, a new series for children
- 7:00 The News in French
- 7:15 Un DB de Plus, with Dennis Roussos

Friday

- 5:30 French Feature Film: "Fotomass contre Scotland Yard"
- 7:00 The News in French
- 7:15 Le Magazine Sirocco: La Feu de la Terra

English Programmes

Saturday

- 8:30 Yes, Prime Minister: "Official Secrets"
- 9:00 Saturday Variety Show
- 10:20 Feature Film: "The God Guys and the Bad Guys", starring Robert Mitchum and George Kennedy as two old enemies who team up to foil a bank robbery

Sunday

- 8:30 My Husband and I
- 9:10 Costeau Adventure
- 10:20 Ochara: Pat Morita stars as an off-beat police detective in this action series
- 11:30 Rich man, poor man

Monday

- 8:30 Are You Being Served?
- 8:10 Rage to Riches
- 10:20 Feature Film: "A Stranger Waits", with Suzanne Pleshette

Tuesday

- 8:30 No Place Like Home
- 9:10 Standby — Light Camera Action!
- 10:20 Murder She Wrote
- 11:30 Rich man, poor man

Wednesday

- 8:30 Comedy series
- 9:00 Hooperman: Three's Company's John Ritter stars as Police Inspector Hooperman, whose unorthodox methods find him at odds with his superior officer, played by Barbara Bosson

- 9:35 Tales of the Unexpected: "The Colonel's Lady" Retired Colonel Paragrine is not very interested when his wife publishes a slim volume of poetry — until he discovers it is the talk of the town
- 10:20 Fields of Fire

Thursday

- 8:30 Kate and Allie
- 9:10 Wish me luck: the story of two young civilian women who risk their lives as secret agents
- 10:20 Feature Film: "Solo" — Pilot Liz Brantly is lost after a plane crash

Friday

- 8:30 Growing Pains: Mike will do anything to get out of doing his English paper
- 9:10 Magnum
- 10:20 Falcon Crest
- 11:10 Rich Man — Poor Man

Handwritten signature or note.

Window On the Philippines

Philippines supports retention of PLO office at UN headquarters

The Philippine Government has expressed its full support for the retention of the Observer Mission of the Palestinian Liberation Organization at the United Nations Headquarters. In an address to the 42nd Session of the U.N. General Assembly, the Philippine Permanent Representative to the U.N. Ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez, joined concerned members of the United Nations in endorsing the United States Government, host country of the U.N., to allow the PLO Observer Mission to remain in New York.

Along with the vast majority of the UN member states, the Philippines has long considered the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and has advocated the free exercise of their inalienable rights to self-determination.

The Philippine Government viewed the decision of the U.S. Government in closing the PLO office as a breach of international law and its obligation to the United Nations, being the host country.

The Philippine Government has urged the U.N. Secretary General and U.N. member states to take legitimate steps to counter this assault on PLO's right to participate in the U.N. The U.N. must seize every opportunity to assert the invalidity of the U.S.

Land titles at last

President Aquino hands over a land title to a farmer of Jala-Jala, Rizal, one of the 66 beneficiaries of the land reform programme initiated by the Manila Electric Company in the area. The awarding of the land titles was held in Malacanang. With the President are Jesus Estanislao, president of Meralco Foundation, Sen. Heherson Alvarez and Natural Resources Secretary Philip Juco.

Friday retreat

A group of Filipinos in Amman will hold a holy retreat on Friday, 1 April, at the Pontifical Mission Library at Jabal Al-Husseini from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. In the Philippines, religious retreats take about three days to one week.

The Friday Retreat will be in preparation for the coming Easter. Rev. Fr. Regan will be the Retreat Master and Spiritual Director. To Filipino Christians, particularly the Roman Catholics, a retreat is a period of withdrawal from the physical world when they themselves turn to God for prayer, study and meditation.

Persons interested to join this coming Friday's retreat are requested to call Ms. Elsa Estrada or Ms. Libeth Puno at the following telephone numbers: 65-42-42; 64-92-82.

Philippine national interest will decide fate of U.S. bases

In his first policy speech before the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations, Inc., Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus said on 28 March that United States facilities in the Philippines "are at the centre of a 90-year old U.S. global strategy, and the Philippines is hosting

them as an accommodation to the strategy."

He added: "We are enabled in the forthcoming review to position the U.S. bases in the mosaic of the political and economic reality of our restored democracy. We cannot view the bases in isolation. We have our military needs and we have our financial gaps."

Secretary Manglapus further explained that the next three years could be a decisive period for the Philippines since the U.S. bases would still be in the country in those years. "We shall ask our American friends to understand why even at this late hour we would like the rectification of those absolute and relative imperfections in the agreement and our relationship to permit us to speed our recovery as well as regain some of the dignity that history took away from us," he said.



He assured the members of the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations that "the Philippine national interest" will be on top of the Philippine U.S. MILITARY Bases Talks which will start on 5 April.

Peso-dollar reference rate

The peso-U.S. dollar reference rate improved to pesos 21.019 to U.S. \$ 1.00 from pesos 21.021.

\$400 million balance of payments surplus in 1988

A high ranking official of the Central Bank of the Philippines said that the Philippines' balance of payments (BOP) surplus this year is projected to reach more than \$400 million, or an increase of \$100 million registered last year.

The BOP summarizes a country's international transactions, like exports and imports, including capital and gold movements. However, this projection is currently being reviewed by a mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) now in Manila making its yearly assessment of the Philippine economy.

Article IV of the IMF charter requires all IMF members to be subjected to annual economic review to determine whether the policies of these countries are in accordance with those prescribed by the IMF.

Also up for review during the mission's five-day visit to the Philippines are the country's medium term fiscal and monetary policies, including those that are to be implemented this year. These include programmes for inflation, exchange rate, interest rates, budgetary deficit, public corporate sector restructuring and revenue collections.

Self-belief sparkes miracle

CHRIS OTI needed a police escort through the delirious mass to reach the team bus after he had fed England's starving followers with three tries against Ireland at Twickenham. During the match, Simon Halliday found the emotion coming from the stands overwhelming. "We were all soaking ourselves in it," he recalled.

Less than 48 hours later, both Oti and Halliday were out of England's immediate future, both unavailable for the summer tour to Australia. The surge of optimism might not survive their absence. Many theories were advanced to explain England's amazing improvement, but the key to the whole thing lay in the heads of Oti and Halliday.

After the match, Oti faced the press. "I don't want to sound arrogant," he said, "but the best is still to come. I want to be remembered for scoring memorable tries. I want to be the same as the best." Halliday is of the same mould, utterly convinced of his own ability and prepared to tell you so.

This transparent self-belief, the sort you hear from boxers drumming up the box-office rather than from an English rugby player, is the crucial quality that England has been missing.

The effect of Oti and Halliday's arrival on an unassuming back division was galvanising. One match after England were accused of murdering rugby with their ponderous approach, they burst out on a wide front. They scored more tries in 40 minutes than in the previous four years of the championship.

And how quickly that self-belief transmitted itself. Against

France at the start of the season, an England back threw the ball inside when he was on the very point of crossing the try-line.

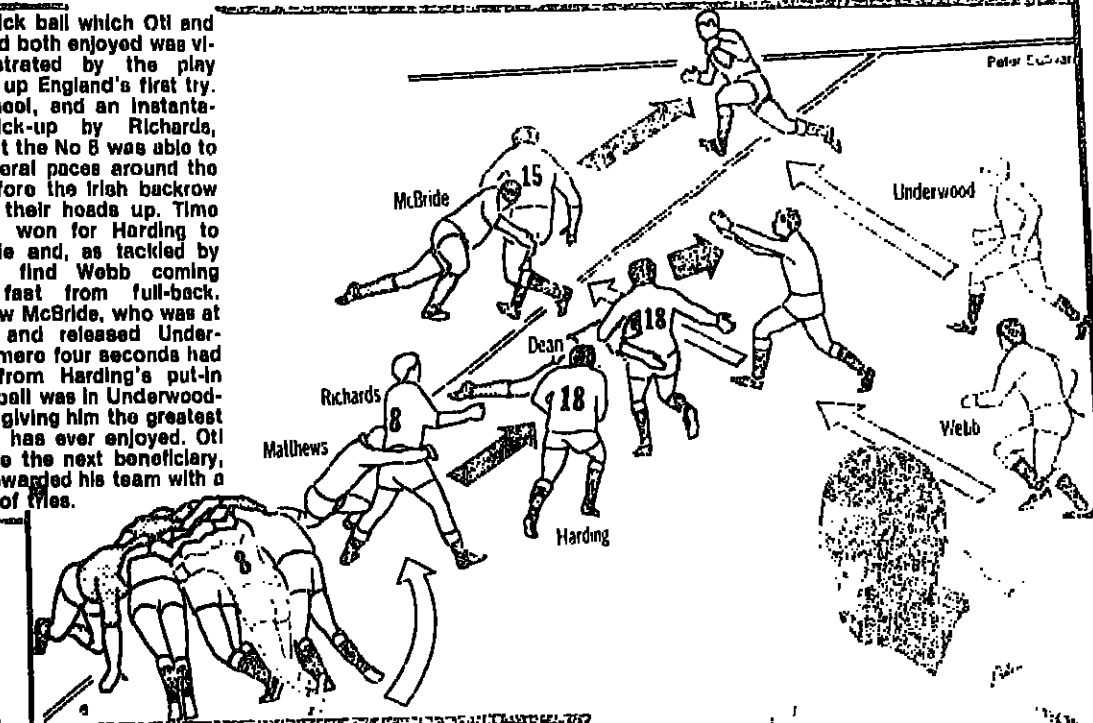
Last Saturday, the only way Oti was going to part with the ball was for the conversion. He scored three tries, and Halliday made two of the scoring passes. Together they gave England the midfield bite of an alligator.

Hugo MacNeill, the Irish full-back, had always been puzzled that Englishmen he met at club level never seemed to be as impressive in internationals. "A lot of the guys are excellent footballers for their clubs, like Andrew, Halliday, Webb, Underwood. But they always seem inhibited when they play for England."

Suddenly, Webb was streaking into the line from fullback. Rob Andrew and Will Carling had their most assertive games for England, and Rory Underwood was running free again — able to run at the opposition, he says, for the first time in his 23 internationals. It was England's biggest and brightest win for 60 years.

Of course, there has been a busy trade all week in denying Oti his triumph. The cynics have instead rubbished the Irish tackling. Granted, Oti did go past a lot of defenders, but hardly a single Irishman was allowed to

The quick ball which Oti and Underwood both enjoyed was vividly illustrated by the play which set up England's first try. A quick heel, and an instantaneous pick-up by Richards, meant that the No 8 was able to travel several paces around the scrum before the Irish backrow even put their heads up. Time had been won for Harding to move wide and, as tackled by Dean, to find Webb coming through fast from full-back. Webb drew McBride, who was at left-wing, and released Underwood. A mere four seconds had elapsed from Harding's put-in until the ball was in Underwood's hands, giving him the greatest space he has ever enjoyed. Oti was to be the next beneficiary, and he rewarded his team with a neat-trick of fines.



get his shoulder into him to set up a tackle. Walter Payton, the great Chicago running back, says that his secret is never to let the defender line him up: "Keep putting a move on him."

Mark Bailey, one of Oti's mentors at Cambridge University, said recently: "Tackling him is frustration. He bounces off like a steel ball in a pinball machine."

So while nobody can pretend that the Irish side was not flawed throughout, no one should be too cynical about England's six tries, either. For sheer skill, Oti's three compared favourably even with the two brilliant efforts by Iwan Evans, one against Scotland and one against France, in the Welsh drive to share the title.

But there were other factors apart from Oti. Richard Harding, arriving to replace Nigel Melville after the captain's tragic departure, had the benefit of a panoramic view of the first half from his stand seat. He realised that the ball had to be moved quicker and wider.

And, crucially, the England forwards

wards at long last were prepared to surrender the ball — and quickly — to create time and space outside "The backs," says Halliday. "I had been asking, 'How can we expand and be creative when the forwards take the ball as far as they can, and only send it back when the whole thing is collapsing?' The ball with which we scored the first try against Ireland was the quickest of the season."

Long before the end, the crowd could hardly believe what they were seeing. Later, Hugo MacNeill was to comment that in a successful side all the players are on the same wavelength, and that sums up England's performance in the second half. How marvellous if the team can stay on that wavelength in the next few months, against Ireland and Australia. Yet with Halliday and Oti committed elsewhere, England have gaps to fill: not only on the wing and in the centre, but also in their state of mind.

(Norman Harris and Stephen Jones).

Chris Oti:
"I want to
become the
best"



Story of Writing Contest

Correct entries from all eight weeks of the contest went into the draw for the Grand Prize — a Duofold Centennial Pen Set by Parker, donated by the University Bookshop to celebrate Parker's Centennial... and won by Samer G. Bagaen, of Amman.

Congratulations too to winners from the final week of the contest. Answers for Week 8 this typewriter dates back to 1714; the technology of photocopying was called 'xerography' — hence the company name Xerox; it is the laser machine which transmits documents over the telephone.

Week 8 winners of pen sets are: Cecilia Cuyo, Mater Safer, Julie Ramos-Asfur, Mohammed Ibrahim Hammad,

Kumar Mysore, and Wasim Darwish.

Books on the Story Writing have been won by V. Patni, Rula Bagaen, D. Radharani, Hassan Manna, Syed Mahmood Ahmad, and Elke Wagner.

Winners can collect their prizes from the University Bookshop in Jebel Weibdeh.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Story of Writing Contest. Watch for our next contest during Ramadan.

A Century of Success

FOR 100 years, Parker has been manufacturing the world's leading writing instruments, since the formation of the company in 1880 by George Safford Parker.

Over the last century, Parker has become renowned for the introduction of innovative new products. George Parker's first patent — the "lucky curve" leak-prevention device of the 1890s; the first mechanically filled fountain pen at the turn of the century; the Parker "51", which became the world's most famous pen; and today's hugely

successful roller ball pens, combining the ease of a ball point with the fluency of liquid ink.

But it was the Parker Duofold with its amazing features, lifetime guarantee and spectacular advertising campaign which, to many, represented the hallmark of Parker's success. It is for this reason that Parker has recreated the beauty and stylish elegance of the 1920s with the introduction of the Parker Duofold Centennial, in celebration of their centennial year.

The Parker Duofold Centennial is more than just a classically elegant pen; it encompasses craftsmanship that stems back a century with the technological expertise of today's world-leading writing instrument manufacturer.

Grand Prize Winner



University Bookshop manager Mazin Qutub presents the prize to Samer Bagaen.

agent pen; it encompasses craftsmanship that stems back a century with the technological expertise of today's world-leading writing instrument manufacturer.

Outside, the new Parker Duofold Centennial is barely distinguishable from the original 1920s model. However, the components within are "state-of-the-art". Parker long ago replaced the traditional, perishing rubber ink-sac by a reliable

press-bar filler. This has now been replaced with a large-capacity, rigid, piston filler. Alternatively the standard Quink cartridge may be used. The ink control system has been newly developed, drawing on elements of our most successful recent designs. It does not flood or leak under normal environmental changes.

To celebrate a century of success, University Bookshop, the sole agent and distributor of

Parker products in Jordan, in co-operation with The Jerusalem Star, conducted a contest entitled "The Story of Writing". Over a period of eight weeks, 96 persons won prizes in this contest. One of these, Samer Bagaen won the Grand Prize. The Duofold Centennial.

We extend our congratulations to all the winners and particularly to Mr Bagaen, with our warmest wishes to Parker Pen in its centennial year.

31 MARCH 1988

Popeye, the Baseball- playing man

The memories go all the way back to his childhood in Cincinnati, the plugs doctors planted in his skull after a beating in the minor leagues 35 years ago, and the nickname came the day he parked back-to-back shots in the upper deck at Ebbets field in Brooklyn.

"Everybody thinks I got it (the nickname), because I chew tobacco," said Zimmer, skipping the obvious explanation — that his round, nearly bald head and quick smile recall the old spinach-eating cartoon character Popeye the sailor.

"But the truth of it is, I got it from (Dodger Teammate) Roy Campanella. I was going back to the dugout after the second homer and Campanella grabs me, 'see', and he had this squeaky voice. 'And he says,' 'continued Zimmer, slipping into character, 'how does a little guy like you hit the ball so far?'"

"Before I can answer, he looks down and says, 'no wonder. You got arms like Popeye.' Well, pretty soon, Duke Snider and the other guys are saying, 'how ya doing, Popeye?' and that made me feel pretty good."

Baseball has a knack for doing that to guys like Zimmer — one rush and hooked for life. Despite the banner afternoon in Brooklyn in 1955, Zimmer wound

up as a journeyman ballplayer whose 12-year, big-league stint included a spot on the 1961 national league all-star team and world series appearances with Brooklyn in 1955 and Los Angeles in 1959.

But it took two final seasons knocking around Japan and the Minors before Zimmer was ready to kick the playing habit in 1967. And even then, when it came time to take a serious look at his future, Zimmer couldn't bring himself to look beyond the ballpark.

He closed out the year managing in the southern league at Knoxville, one of the two minor-league clubs he failed to make as a player that season. Five years later, the San Diego Padres called Zimmer up to replace Preston Gomez as manager.

"The game was already changing by then, but I wasn't," Zimmer recalled in a recent telephone interview from the club's spring training headquarters in Mesa, Arizona.

"In my day, you'd go into a lobby and see guys sitting around, talking, joking. Most of these guys in the lobbies today are reading the stock tables," he added. "With what we made when I played, you didn't have to worry about stock."

IN BRIEF

Women's Slalom Title

MONTE PORO, Italy (AP) — Former Olympic champion Paola Nagoni-Sforza on Monday won the Women's Slalom Title at the Italian championships of Alpine Skiing in this Alpine resort, near Bergamo.

Nagoni-Sforza, fastest in both heats down the icy Europe course, edged Roberta Serra and Michaela Marzola, who placed second and third respectively.

The Women's giant Slalom Title was awarded Tuesday while the first men's event, the downhill, was raced on Wednesday.

Clippers 102, Pistons 100

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mike Woodson scored 10 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter as Los Angeles erased a 15-point second-period deficit. The Clippers took a 101-97 lead on two free throws each by Woodson and Benetti Benjamin.

The Pistons, who had lost only once in 37 previous games in which they led after three quarters, held a seven-point margin with 10:02 left. But they went cold during the next six minutes as Woodson fueled a 10-1 run with six points. Ishai Thomas and Vinnie Johnson led the pistons with 19 points.

Japan PGA tour

TOKYO (AP) — The 1988 Japan Professional Golfers Association tour starts today, offering record total prize money of 2.22 billion yen (\$17.4 million) for the 40 tournaments.

The prize money total is up 222million yen (\$1.75 million) from last season's 40-tournament tour.

The tour opens with the 40 million yen (\$315,000) Shizuoka Open Golf Tournament on the Hamaoka course of the Shizuoka Country Club, southwest of Tokyo.

Defending champion Lu Liang-Huan of Taiwan leads a field of 119 pros and 17 amateur players competing on the 6,919-yard, par-72 course for a top prize of 7.2 million yen (\$56,700).

The biggest money event's will be the Dunlop Phoenix Golf Tournament and the ABC Cup Japan vs. United States Golf match, each offering 150 million yen (\$1.2 million) with 27 million yen (\$212,600) earmarked for the winners.

Interest this season focuses on whether American David Ishai will lead the JPGA's money winning list for the second consecutive year.

Sydney: 1996 Olympics

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Sydney is considering making a bid to stage the 1996 Olympic Games, New South Wales State Premier Barrie Unsworth said Monday. Sydney is Australia's most populous city with 3.5 million inhabitants.

Another Australian city, Brisbane, was a candidate for the 1992 Olympics, which will be held in Barcelona, Spain, and also is considering bidding for 1996.

Unsworth, who is fighting a state election this Saturday, said he wanted an Olympic games staged in Sydney at little cost to taxpayers in an effort to attract tourists and create jobs.

The 1996 games, marking the centenary of the Olympics, are widely expected to be hosted by Athens because Greece was the site of the first games of the modern era.

Australia last hosted an Olympics in 1956, when the games were held in Melbourne.

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Director General
Kamel El-Sherif

Managing Director
Said El-Sherif

Responsible Editor-in-Chief
Osama El-Sherif

Advertising Director
Yousef Amman

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Shultz' crisis management

US Secretary of State George Shultz will be back in the Middle East amidst escalating tension in the occupied Arab territories caused by Israel's mounting repressive measures and its adamant refusal to move one inch toward genuine peace.

Mr Shultz will be confronted with two major factors which dominate the present scene in the region and influence any political moves in the Middle East. The first is that the uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip has not only continued unabated but also gained strength and grew in ferocity and determination to attain national Palestinian rights. In the meantime, Israeli occupation authorities continue to ignore the lessons of history and keep stepping up their terror campaign against revolting Palestinian civilians in a desperate attempt to quell their courageous uprising.

The Israeli authorities were apparently hoping that when Shultz returns to the region to pursue peace proposals, the uprising would have lost its intensity as a result of tougher oppressive measures and will thus be able to persuade the US secretary of state that the situation became under control and there will be no need to go ahead with his peace efforts. Their calculations have been based on the fact that the US administration has no policy in the Middle East beyond crisis management. The crisis now is the uprising and the enormous impact it has made both in Israel and the outside world.

The uprising is continuing and the Land Day is being observed on full strength both in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and in Arab towns and villages in the Palestinian territory occupied in 1948. Moreover, the measures which Israel has put into effect, including banning travel and media coverage and declaring the areas as closed military zones, are a terrible reminder of the urgent need to pursue peace efforts with seriousness and a genuine desire to reach a just and balanced settlement.

Shultz' trip is crucial not only because the man will be expected to bring a magic solution to the region's problems but also because his failure once again to prompt Israel to budge will shatter all hopes that the United States can play a key role in bringing about peace in this volatile region. If the United States, on whom Israel's survival depends, cannot press the Israelis into conceding to peace requirements, who else can?

It remains to be reasserted that under all circumstances, the Arab states directly involved as well as the representatives of the Palestinian people have nothing to offer after they have unequivocally made their legitimate demands crystal clear.

The Arabs can never agree to peace negotiations except within a UN-sponsored international conference with full powers and wide responsibilities and with all the parties involved attending on an equal footing. The ball is in the US and Israeli courts, and it is up to Mr Shultz and the Reagan administration not to miss the historic opportunity which the Arabs have created to reach the long-cherished Middle East peace.

Troubled peace

The tragic escalation of the Gulf war in recent weeks has claimed thousands of lives and millions of dollars in material losses on both sides of the war front. In addition to the war of the cities, attacks on oil tankers have threatened commercial shipping lines in the Arab Gulf which could deal a setback to the slow economic recovery of the oil-producing countries in that region.

Security Council Resolution 598 remains the only basis for a just solution to this bloody war. But until today there are no signs that Iran has changed its position on the resolution and accepted its unconditional application. Thus, it is time for the Security Council to push for the implementation of its decision by sanctioning the party which does not comply with the resolution and to impose an arms embargo on Iran. While most permanent members of the Council are ready to go ahead with sanctioning Iran, the Soviet Union remains hesitant.

As peace efforts reach a state of limbo, Iran continues to launch ground and air attacks on Iraq. Two weeks ago a cease-fire collapsed a few hours after it was observed by the belligerents because of Iranian shelling of Iraqi border towns. The result was an uninterrupted exchange of long-range missiles between Baghdad and Tehran, which caused the death of innocent civilians on both sides.

The superpowers and other members of the Security Council must take immediate action to impose an arms embargo on Iran so as to accept the full conditions of Resolution 598.

We could be witnessing a relaxation in some of the Middle East's regional conflicts like Afghanistan for example. It is still too early to pronounce the death of Mr Shultz' peace plan for the Arab-Israeli conflict. But without a determined action to stop the destructive war of attrition in the Arab Gulf, peace in the region will remain troubled.

A realistic agenda for Moscow in May

COMMENTARY
Sajid Rizvi

By Sajid Rizvi
Special to The Star

LONDON — T.S. Eliot wrote that half of the harm done is due to people who want to feel important, so the other half, in the present context at least, must be put down to people who are important. Ronald Reagan and Mikhail S. Gorbachev foremost among them.

As the preparations get under way for the scheduled summit from 29 May to 2 June, it's that time again when the temptation to foretell and divine the thoughts and intentions of these two powerful men becomes irresistible. From the weather in Moscow in May to the items on the agenda or on menus — everything is up for grabs by the crystal-ball pundits.

What comes less easy is sympathy for the aloofness exhibited by these two leaders, their detachment of the nuclear overloads in a world beset by real, albeit conventional, mayhem. How can their summit be part of the same world in which wars rage, and peace is needed now, not a few weeks later as one of many items on an agenda? Yet the truth is that this whole business of talking arms control lies at the heart of the nuclear sub-culture that seems to regard the rest of the world as one giant ghetto.

The exclusivist, sharply focused palavers that marked the Washington summit, and no doubt will characterise the Moscow summit as well, have engendered universal cynicism and hostility of a kind, and not all of it unreasonable.

The intermediate nuclear force treaty signed by Reagan and Gorbachev in Washington received universal welcome. Any progress toward elimination of the long-range nuclear missiles no doubt would leave mankind deeply gratified.

But if the willingness for peaceful coexistence is present, it needs to be reflected also on what the superpowers call the regional level. The outlook on that level is far grimmer, however, because conflicts there are in progress, not contemplated as in strategic scenarios which are formulated as part of nuclear armament. A conventional war may seem tame in comparison with the scenarios for a nuclear exchange, but it still kills people.

The latest phase of the Iran-Iraq War, showed how easily a conventional conflict could be upgraded into an exchange of proscribed weapons. Yet in the past weeks, the murderous escalation of the Gulf conflict received about as much media attention as Afghanistan

although the number of fatalities in the former was far higher. Why? Because a superpower is directly involved in Afghanistan and is taking human losses while the Gulf conflict is a mere proxy war? Or is it because no Soviet or American soldiers and civilians are dying?

Enough rhetoric has been spewed about the superpowers' insensitivity in the Gulf conflict to make repetition unnecessary. But consider this: the naval presence of the NATO forces along with that of the Soviet Union in the Gulf region has been a moderate success since it was introduced last year. It did not stop attacks on shipping altogether, but neither did it result in the major flareup that everyone justifiably saw coming. So the powers that may be can indeed get results if they want. How about trying an arms embargo? Or a naval blockade of the combatants in the Gulf? Or an enforced cease-fire, in which each violator gets punished by a multinational supervisory force?

There is reason to suspect that the escalations in the Gulf conflict are indeed designed to produce classical results — a decisive victory or an abject defeat — except that somehow these results elude the executors. This should hardly be surprising in a war that, on the whole, has been undecided through seven and a half years of the fighting.

But, other than the false premise that war produces victors and vanquished among adversaries, the problems of the Gulf, as indeed of other conflicts in Asia, Africa or Latin America, stem from the relegation of conventional war almost to the category of non-war.

War in a modern sense — and particularly in the eyes of policymakers and strategists — means essentially nuclear conflict; everything else becomes a skirmish. Had this not been so, Reagan and Gorbachev would be sooner, more often, in urgent huddles to resolve the conflicts such as those in the Gulf.

But, whether the loftier ideals of the Moscow agenda lead to a meaningful initiative in the Gulf or not, there can be little change in the essential deadly cargo of war.

As Thomas Paine said, war involves in its progress such a train of unforeseen and unsupported circumstances that no human wisdom can calculate the end. Whatever the superpower calculations, they cannot beat the arithmetic of history. If the present strategies don't add up, there will be an equalizer on way, one knows not what.

Sajid Rizvi is the Managing Editor of Academic File.

Paris counts its chickens in Chad

By Zafer Masud
Special to The Star

PARIS — The current full in the seemingly inconclusive Chad war is giving way to tense expectation as France awaits the next move by Tripoli, following Libyan leader Muammar Al-Qadhafi's pledge in a recent interview of a new offensive.

White France gets into high gear for its presidential election, the feeling at Quai d'Orsay appears to be to let things take their own course in the Sahara. The lack of alarm, or of a military buildup in expectation of a new southward strike by Qadhafi, stems partly from changed perceptions.

Since the American air raid on Libya in April 1986, France, like some other West European governments, has come to believe that Qadhafi either has been "chastised" enough or is reluctant to venture out again to confront them. Whether that judgment is correct will be proven by events.

But there is no lowering of the guards, or the French would not be in Chad. Despite its heavy military involvement in the conflict, France has not tired of repeating the notion that it's only fulfilling a historical role in the former colony — rather than that it is taking sides in a struggle for supremacy among Chad's power groups. That struggle has continued, as has France's role in it, since the country became independent in August 1960 with François Tombalbaye as its first president.

The first full-scale French military intervention began in August 1968, when Tombalbaye, unnerved by a revolt of tribesmen in the Tibesti mountains in northern Chad, uncomfortably close to the Libyan border, asked Paris for help. The French troops stayed on until 1972. Soon after they left, however, the Libyan forces occupied the Aouzou strip, more than 100,000 square kilometres of

Shultz pushes for Mid-East peace plan

By Dana Adams Schmidt
Star Washington Correspondent

IN THE announcement that Secretary of State George Shultz will next Sunday be off again to the Middle East, there's something euphoric. It means that he thinks there is still a chance that his plan for peace, or some part of it, will be accepted. George Shultz, American optimist, pragmatist, rejects the prevailing nihilist, pessimist mentality that holds that there are really no solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict except mutual destruction.

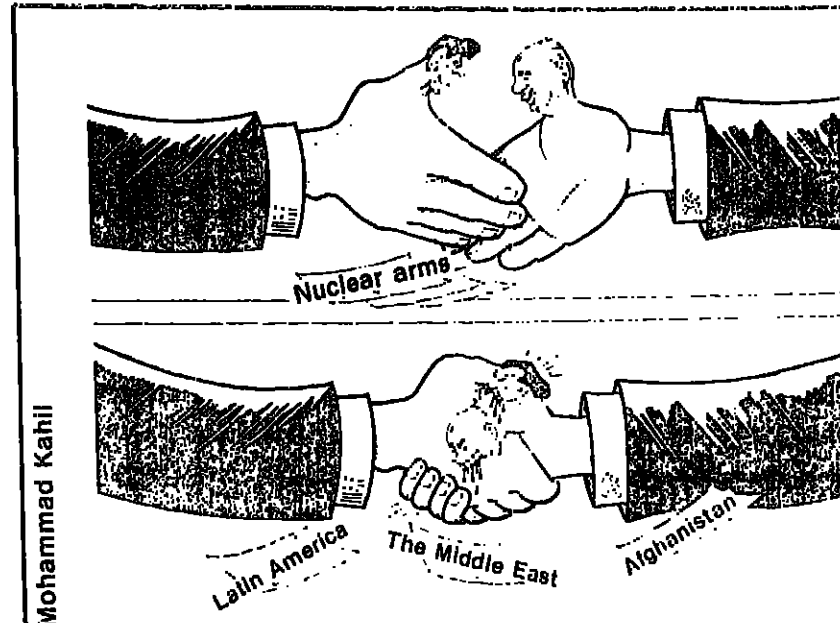
Shultz's move back to the Middle East is part of a pattern. After seven years of frustration the Reagan Administration is at last moving ahead systematically in foreign affairs. Here are some of the elements:

President Reagan's Washington meeting with Gorbachev has resulted in plans for another meeting in Moscow. Reagan's approach to foreign affairs problems has found in Gorbachev a somewhat kindred spirit. Thanks to their mutual sponsorship, a treaty to limit strategic nuclear arms seems near, perhaps even before the end of the Reagan Administration. The Soviets are getting ready to withdraw from Afghanistan. There was a creative welding there of Gorbachev's desire to strengthen the Soviet economy instead of engaging in foreign adventures and US pressure in the form of consistent support of the resistance.

The United States economy is prospering in spite of domestic and foreign trade deficits. While Reaganites might insist on more positive explanations, this does seem very much a manifestation of what has become known as "Reagan Luck."

There is an internal reason for the recent success of the Reagan Administration. After seven years of covert strife inside the administration Reagan has at last devised an effective executive mechanism.

What I am alluding to is that for years, the administration has been hobbled by rivalry and mutual dislike between the Secretary of Defence Caspar W. Weinberger and Secretary of State George Shultz. The two men developed a habit of frustrating each other, of concealing



intelligence from each other instead of co-operating. President Reagan, unwilling to support one member of his cabinet against another sometimes went with one, sometimes the other.

Earlier there had been tending between Richard V. Allen as head of the National Security Council (NSC) and Secretary of State Alexander Haig, which was aggravated by Reagan's ignorance of foreign affairs and of the machinery of government.

But all that is past history. Mr Reagan has educated himself and taken hold of the executive apparatus. He has established a daily meeting, early in the morning, sometimes at 7:00 am with three key men: Secretary Shultz, Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, and National Security Adviser Lt. Gen. Colin Powell. The three, with Reagan, are the day-to-day problem solvers. They are not trying to do one another in. Carlucci, for instance, recently sent to Shultz for his opinion a study of the cost of Nato and US defence of Europe, a move much less likely in Weinberger's time.

A notable fact about this early morning meeting is that Powell is black, and surely he is the first black to engage in

never-never-land along the Libyan-Chad frontier and very much the bone of contention between the two armies today.

Why is the Aouzou desert strip, about 1,000 kilometres long and 60 to 200 km wide, a source of chronic conflict? There is no clear answer. France gave it to Mussolini in 1935, and Libya claims that it bought the area from President Tombalbaye in 1973. The claim is undocumented, however. Equally unproven is the legend that under the desolate panorama lie vast deposits of uranium and other politically sensitive minerals.

The historical ambiguity is further blurred by a shifting political spectrum. Chad's President Hissène Habré himself has had a stormy relationship with Paris. As the leader of the Chad National Liberation Front, he opposed President Tombalbaye, a French favourite, but in the following years he cultivated Paris with foresight and cunning. Habré currently is back in favour with France. He stood between President François Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac to receive the French armed forces' salute at the national day parade in Paris on 14 July last year, a rare distinction for a foreigner.

But the French have not forgotten that they first heard of him when, as the head of the rebel group, he was involved in the abduction of three French nationals in 1974. A French emissary, Commander Galopin, was executed by the group during the negotiations for the freeing of the hostages.

The French army intervened in Chad for a second time in 1977 to help install the army chief, Gen. Malloum, who executed Tombalbaye and invited Hissène Habré to become his prime minister. Thenceforward, Habré's career has been marked by an ascending curve. When

Maloum lost power to guerrilla leader Goukoni Oueddei, Habré went into opposition and quietly built his support among tribesmen.

The year 1980 remains significant in Chad's history because it marked open conflict between Habré, whose rebellion triggered a civil war, and President Oueddei whose co-operation treaty with Qadhafi was exploited by his opponents (including Habré) and cast Libya, for the years to come, into the role of Chad's implacable foe.

Nevertheless Oueddei was received with great warmth by Mitterrand when he visited Paris in 1981, a year before he was overthrown by Habré. But then it was the same Mitterrand who stood beside Habré at the parade last year, while Oueddei, having fallen out with Qadhafi as well, spent time in a Libyan jail.

Chad is twice the size of France but has only about five million inhabitants with one of the lowest per capita incomes in the world. Its negative growth in the last decade has averaged 2.3 per cent — about three times its annual rate of inflation. But its importance is strategic. The earlier hesitations of France in getting involved in a former colony's civil war have given way to a clearer situation where Chad, albeit under the hand of a former "undesirable," as far as Paris is concerned, is face to face with an unpredictable Qadhafi.

But Libya, which lost the Aouzou Strip to Habré's forces on 8 August last year and took it back in less than three weeks in a spectacular operation, has shown remarkable restraint. How much of that is due to Qadhafi's better judgment and how much is owed to the looming threat of retribution from France and the United States, cannot yet be known.

Paris counts its chickens in Chad

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But Paris, temporarily relieved of the

dilemma of supporting one or the other of the feuding Chadians, seems to be investing in the future of Hissène Habré, who looms larger than Oueddei's successor in the opposition movement, Achicheh Ibn, who is backed by Libya.

The latest direct clash between France and Libya so far has been the shooting down of a Libyan TU-22 bomber, which crossed the 16th Parallel with the intent to raid N'Djamena, the capital, on 1 August last year. The present July on 1 August last year, as Libya and Chad could be deceptive, as Libya and Chad would like to make an authoritative body that will lay down the law to the Israelis, whereas the Israelis would prefer no conference at all. Or if there must be one, let it be purely decorative. While Gorbachev is known to prefer the former, Reagan espouses the latter. Compromise with the help of Shultz the pragmatist is possible.

Viewpoint

By Ya'coub Ahmad

The primary enemy

THE ISRAELI threats against Saudi Arabia highlight once again the menace which Israel poses to all Arab countries, regardless of their geographical location or political systems. By threatening to destroy the Chinese-made long-range missiles which Saudi Arabia installed on its soil for purely defensive purposes, Israel has reminded the Arabs everywhere that the dangers of its aggressive presence extend far beyond the borders of Palestine to engulf the entire Arab World.

Perhaps the Arabs need to be reminded at times of the constant Israeli threats against the sovereignty and national independence of their states. The saying, after all, is that the Arabs, contrary to the Israelis, can easily forget and even forgive. The fact that Israel is a threat to the whole Arab region shatters illusions propagated across the Middle East by Zionism and its supporters. The first of these is that Israel regards the Arabs as being divided into two categories: moderates and hard-liners, with each of them receiving different treatment. In effect, Israel looks on Arabs, all the Arabs, as enemies who should be pursued, fought and harassed on an equal footing. Accordingly, Israel acts ruthlessly and forcibly by all means available to it to prevent any Arab country from acquiring advanced military power, even for defence purposes, and irrespective of the circumstances surrounding such Arab country.

This explains why Israel destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981 despite the fact that Iraq was engaged in bitter fighting with Iran. And this also explains the recent Israeli threats against Saudi Arabia's newly acquired Chinese missiles.

Even before these two significant incidents, Israeli allies tried to delude the Arabs with the belief that Communism, and not Zionism, constitutes the major threat against the Arab independence and that the main effort should be directed towards combating the red danger. At times in the 1950s and the early 1960s, Israeli allies attempted to lure the Arabs into joining anti-communist military pacts. It later became clear that the pacts were basically aimed at diverting attention from the Israeli danger by focusing on an imaginary enemy. It did not take much time to prove that the communist threat was not real and that the Soviet Union, the leader of the Eastern Bloc, is a friendly superpower maintaining genuine support for the Arab causes. Those attempts, however, had contributed to the strengthening of Israel to the extent of enabling it in subsequent years to expand and carry out a series of aggressions and become the leading military power in the region.

All is well that ends well. The Israeli threats against Saudi Arabia seem to have re-awakened the Arab collective sense of the danger which Israel represents. Pledges of total support for Saudi Arabia from Jordan, Egypt, Syria and other Arab states shifted lights on the arch enemy of the entire Arab World.

Zafer Masud is a Paris-based writer and researcher. He has written extensively on current affairs in Europe and the developing world.

Every Week

By

Dr. Nabil El-Sharif

The myth of Israeli security

INSTEAD OF responding to questions and speculations about its nuclear activities that threaten the whole region, and instead of justifying its possession of long-range missiles, Israel chose to make a lot of noise about Saudi Arabia's purchase of ground-to-ground Chinese missiles in the past couple of weeks.

Both Shamir and other officials in the Israeli government (denounced the Saudi missile deal, and considered it dangerous to the Zionist State's security).

There is clearly something wrong with the way Israeli leaders talk about (security) in this region. They maintain that security is a one-way street, and in that Israel alone, of all countries in the region, should have this (God-given) right to security. Even in the political arena, Israel managed to deceive the world community that the concept of security applies only to one country in the region — namely Israel.

The latest American initiative that Mr. Shultz is proposing now refers only to Israel's need for secure borders. But what about the need for secure borders in other countries in the region? Nobody makes any mention of that.

Israel has been pushing this flawed and one-sided concept of security because it has been selling another myth to the world community — i.e. the myth of the little David being surrounded by the heavily armed and brutal forces of Goliath on all sides. But the world has been able to tear down this myth, especially in the wake of the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Israel is, in fact, the brutal Goliath in the region. And it is the other countries in this part of the world that should insist and push for their need to secure their present and future from Israel's aggressive intentions and military stockpiling that has reached an alarming rate over the past few years.

In July 1982, that chess woe, has been tested a long-range missile which can reach the Soviet Union. Within days of the test, Moscow radio warned Israel about deploying the rocket. Israel's mythical need for security has indeed turned into a heap of broken images.

The Arab hospitality tent

The Arab world, stretching from Mauritania on the Atlantic Ocean to Oman on the Arabian Sea, has been host to refugees from Europe and the Ottoman Empire. Now its hospitality is helping thousands of people seeking shelter or better opportunities in life.

By Natalie Warren-GREEN
Special to The Star

LONDON — While the world shrinks for the homeless refugees haunted by fear of persecution, war or economic deprivation, the Arab world still offers some welcome openings. It is home for hundreds of thousands of refugees, and the hospitality tent still has its flap flying.

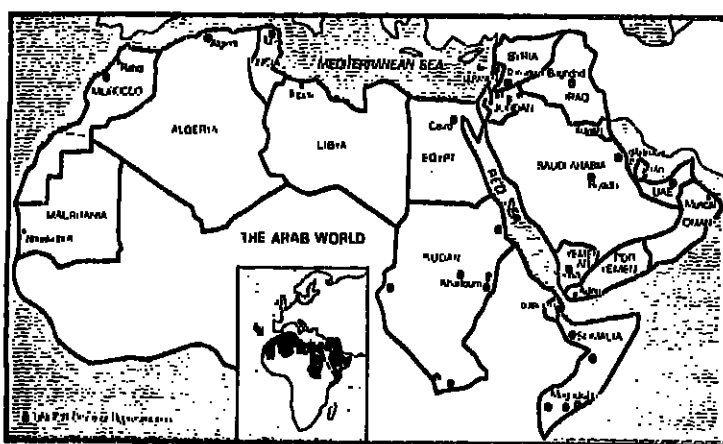
The open door that greets the seekers of shelter and security is not to be confused with immigration, which remains subject to some of the strictest rules in the world. And there seems little connection between a host country's wealth and its attitude toward refugees. Some of the most hospitable Arab countries are also some of the poorest members of the Arab League.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNHCR recently reported major setbacks in the efforts worldwide to resettle asylum seekers and refugees. The worst examples were in western Europe and north America.

In the Arab world, meanwhile, there was a steady increase in the numbers of refugees. According to one UNHCR estimate quoted by the Refugees magazine, the Arab countries of North Africa and the Peninsula provided shelter to about 4.2 million displaced people, 2.2 million of them Palestinians and the rest Yemenis and Africans.

UNHCR said that "by providing asylum to refugees and by contributing to refugee assistance programmes, both within and beyond their own region, the governments and people of the Arab world are playing a vital role in the international community's efforts to respond to the global refugee tragedy."

Of the major non-Arab groups in the Arab world, there are more than 800,000 Ethiopians, Chadians and Ugandans in Sudan, 700,000 Ethiopians in Somalia and around 13,000 Ethiopians in



Djibouti. Elsewhere, some 165,000 Sahrawis fleeing the war in the former Spanish Sahara in West Africa have taken shelter in Algeria. More than 70,000 people escaping the political and economic upheaval in South Yemen are now in North Yemen. The Yemenis are also host to about 7,000 Ethiopians.

Not all refugees are driven by fear, however. Many of the young Africans seeking shelter in North Africa, for example, hope to improve their lives taking advantage of the educational facilities available in Egypt and other Arab countries. Hundreds of the refugees get UNHCR scholarships to support their studies.

Arab countries have welcomed refugees decades before the discovery of oil transformed some of them. Thousands of Russians fled from the 1917 Soviet revolution to take shelter in Egypt and Tunisia and Spanish Republicans sought refuge in north Africa.

Armenians came to Egypt in large numbers and, during the golden era of Soviet-Egyptian friendship under Gamal Abdel Nasser, at least 5,000 of them went back to settle in their ancestral home in Soviet Armenia. Thousands of others, armed with better education, settled in the United States, Europe and

Australia.

But the handling of refugees in the Arab world has been marred in recent years by lack of available expertise and organized assistance. "So many of the Arab countries are suffering from refugee problems," said Farouk Abu Issa, Secretary-General of the Arab Lawyers Union. But he indicated that resolution of the problems was hindered by differences in national legislation, lack of organization and of involvement of the legal community.

"The majority of Arab lawyers are not interested in this area, as they are not well-informed about it. So first we have to educate our own members," he told Refugees. The union, which represents 200,000 practicing lawyers, jurists, magistrates and legal counsels, plans to publish booklets on refugee law in Arabic "to raise the consciousness of people and politicians."

"Educated people in the Arab world are now quite well-informed about civil, political and socio-economic rights and legislation, but the UN Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees are not well-known."

Unlike refugees in the industrial countries, those taking shelter in the Arab world find that their problems begin only after

they finish their higher education. Egypt, host to refugee students from Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and other African countries, has high unemployment and stiff competition for housing and other basic amenities.

"It always makes me feel uneasy," said one of the students. "There are questions which are always in front of my face. Where can I go? Where should I live? What can I do? I constantly feel these questions, but I do not dare to utter them."

The oil boom created plentiful jobs in the Gulf, but getting there wasn't easy. Now the jobs have evaporated and the refugees graduating from colleges and universities in the host countries are looking West — or East toward Australia. Sonia Mery, a UNHCR resettlement officer, said that 90 per cent of refugee students in Egypt in recent years had successfully applied for resettlement in Australia, Canada or the United States.

Many of the refugees she interviewed said they wouldn't go back to their homelands but still wanted to support their families. Resettlement in an industrial country offered the prospect, according to one, that "you can study, get a career, and earn enough to have a good life and send some money back to your family." But with new restrictions being imposed to make asylum and immigration more difficult in most industrial countries, the outlook for these seekers of new life is not bright.

The lack of opportunities for resettlement in the industrial world is compensated, however, by the traditional hospitality of people in the Arab world. "Egypt is more or less similar to our own country. We all speak some English and many know a little Arabic," said one refugee, now a qualified doctor in Alexandria. "People are sociable, and students, teachers and neighbors all get on well together." That fills a void even when most refugees have barely enough to live on.

Natalie Warren-Green is a member of the Research Unit of Academic File.

Pruning the Gulf conflicts agenda

By Sajid Rizvi
Special to The Star

LONDON — More than seven years on, conflict smolders along the Iran-Iraq frontier and at sea, occasionally — and dangerously — involving neighbours and visitors to the Gulf. It's a war for which responsibility must be shared by the belligerents as well as the peacemakers.

The ambitions of the adversaries are well-known, but what of the mediators? Not only are the combatants inflexible in their demands for peace, but the negotiators seem to think the conflict cannot end without a comprehensive settlement agreed beforehand. Because such an accord remains elusive, and it's not difficult to see why, the war goes on.

In the resulting stalemate, the war has assumed new complexities, wider dimensions, greater risks to outsiders, and seems capable of delivering ever greater blows to whomever comes in its path. It's not yet intractable, but if you looked at yesterday's events tomorrow you would realize that things were in fact simpler when you thought that they would get better in a day or two.

When fighting erupted in

1980, it was already on a wide scale, involving infantry, armoured divisions, artillery and combat aircraft. Soon the long-range artillery was added to the currencies of the deadly exchange and produced the slaughter of the War of the Cities. Excess missiles and Super Eagles followed. Mines infested the waters, attracting minisubmersibles, which could be protected only by frigates and support warships, and those made inevitable the deployment of some of the world's most formidable military power aloft.

But restoring peace to the troubled region was the subject of three major parleys in the last three months, the Washington summit between the US President Ronald Reagan and the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the Gulf Co-operation Council summit in Riyadh and the Arab League summit in Amman. In between there were diplomatic shuttle, international consultations and those secret telephone calls that, alas, are not bugged for public benefit.

The mediators should lower their sights, shed the clichés and shun the generalizations. It's probably true that there won't be a cease-fire until there is the political will for one in Tehran, but it's also true that that

will take ages to crystallize, and it depends at least partly on what peace terms are seen to be acceptable to Iran.

The notion that peace will not come until Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini goes is increasingly challenged by the fact that he remains in charge, providing Iran with a central authority. His absence from the scene will engulf Iran into new uncertainties to which there are no answers.

But rather than approaching Ayatollah Khomeini with a multi-sided draft contract, with the inevitable small print, a fresh limited mediation attempt should aim simply at a status quo ante in the Gulf — clearing it of mines as well as ensuring Iraqi and Iranian compliance with a general agreement to halt attacks on shipping.

Since the anti-shipping phase of the conflict began in May 1984, the main thrust of the Iraqi argument has been that, without oil earnings, Iran's war-machine would crumble. The Iranian response has been even less rational; it has involved random attacks at sea as well as shipping.

Iran is far from bankrupt; aid hasn't yet begun flowing. The shipping war most likely would bankrupt both combatants

but not the owners of third-country ships involved, who are well-cushioned by insurance. It hasn't stopped the flow of Iranian or Iraqi crude either, so even from a tactical viewpoint it's a worthless exercise and should be abandoned.

But how? By declaring the whole of the Gulf an exclusion zone for both combatants under a United Nations umbrella, Iraq's ports have not operated since the first battles of the war and Iran, pursued by the Iraqi air force, has moved its oil export operations downstream.

An exclusion zone would bar both military planes and naval craft of the combatants from activity in the area. It seems impracticable at first glance, but if the major powers whose navies now ply in the area decide to enforce the zone impartially, giving the Iraqis to Iraqi planes of Iranian boats under their UN authority, they will have achieved a small success.

Purging the Gulf of the Iran-Iraq conflict will not end the war, but it will de-internationalize it. That stage must be reached before any meaningful effort to entice Iran and Iraq to the conference room.

Mideast:

All roads lead to Rome

With its commitment to 'Evenhandedness' and many friends in the Middle East, Italy finds itself in a unique position to attempt mediation in the Arab-Israeli conflict. This month the capital, Rome, was the centre of unusual diplomatic activity by Americans, Arabs, Israelis, Italians and Vatican personalities.

By Marco Brunelli
Special to The Star

ROME — All roads lead to Rome, says the old adage, and for many of the Middle Eastern protagonists, they in fact led here in the first half of February. The list of visitors stretched from King Hussein of Jordan (on 1 and 2 February) and the Palestinian diplomatic chief, Farouk Kaddoumi, who held talks on 3-4 February, to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (in town on 4-5 February) and Hanna Siniora, managing editor of Jerusalem's Arabic language daily, Al-Fajr, who had a weekend of consultations on 6-8 February.

After a diplomatic pause, Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir flew in to put the case from the other side of the court on 15-16 February, just as Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti started preparing his briefs for visits, at the end of the month, to Syria and Saudi Arabia.

With its numerous friends in the Middle East and its status as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Italy can play a significant role in promoting peace in the Middle East, commented US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, before all this movement began. Its moves on the fronts of security and diplomacy contribute to this end.

Murphy's article in the latest edition of Affari Esteri (Foreign Affairs), a quarterly close to Italian foreign ministry circles, also warned the Israelis to look at the Middle Eastern question "very carefully," confirming what was already an open secret here: that even before the powerful thrust supplied by the Palestinian uprising, behind-the-scenes diplomatic contacts had produced "some significant progress toward direct peace negotiation."

The role which Italian politicians other than serving government officials might play in the crisis was highlighted by separate consultations involving Socialist Party Secretary Bettino Craxi, the former prime minister, whose party is part of Goria's government coalition, and Alessandro Natta, secretary of the powerful Italian Communist Party, by far the largest in the West and recipient of a steady 30 per cent of the vote in recent Italian elections.

At his meeting with Mubarak, Craxi, for example, who has close friends in the Arab world, especially North Africa, disclosed that he was planning personal missions to Amman and to meet PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, in Tunis; while Siniora quoted Natta as telling him that, when he meets Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow next month, "he will ask him to put the Palestinian problem on the agenda of his coming summit with US President Ronald Reagan."

Political analysts were doubtful whether initiatives of this kind were more than beating the party drum, but all commentators agreed that the Middle Eastern visitor's Roman stays last a more concentrated beam of light on the Vatican's often shadowy diplomacy, appropriate

for a mini-state with no worldly power beyond its spiritual claims, a financial muscle not in different for its size, and a handful of Swiss guards, the men with halberds and Renaissance armour at the Vatican's gates.

Pope John Paul II granted audiences to His Majesty King Hussein and President Mubarak, while Kaddoumi and Siniora met Magr. Achille Silvestrini, not the Pope, but still the Vatican's equivalent of foreign minister. For some analysts, the closest parallel was Pope Paul VI's gesture of meeting the leaders of the liberation movement in Portugal's former African colonies at a time, the end of the 1980's, when the political and military climate was swinging in favour of their independence.

Vatican watchers have also pointed to a crescendo of moral indignation in Vatican statements on Israeli behaviour in the occupied territories, picking out in addition a statement released after King Hussein's visit to the Pope as especially frank.

Using a form of words verging on sarcasm, a figure of speech rarely found in Vatican pronouncements, the statement said the Vatican's reservations over "the status currently attributed to the Holy City" of Jerusalem are "well-known."

This barb for Tel-Aviv went to the heart of the issue blocking diplomatic relations between Israel and the Holy See: Israel's annexation of Arab East Jer-



Pope John Paul II

usalem and its declaration of the city as its capital in perpetuity. For the Vatican, the Holy City must be regarded as the "spiritual patrimony" of the three great monotheistic religions, not Judaism alone.

No wonder, then, that Israeli embassy sources in Rome ruled out even a thought of seeking contacts with the Vatican while Shamir was visiting the city.

For some analysts, however, the most interesting insights into the current state of the Palestinian issue could be gleaned, not from the visiting government chiefs or the Pope, but from Kaddoumi and Siniora, the spokesmen for the people whose startling emergence into a national consciousness initially sparked off all the shuffling and travelling.

At separate press conferences, both men confirmed that, as Siniora put it, "the American peace plan that there was talk of does not exist." They also confirmed that the Palestinians' security must be ensured, that their right to self-determination recognized, and that a separate Palestinian delegation be invited



Bettino Craxi

to an eventual international peace conference.

"But, in the future," Siniora reported, "the PLO is ready to enter a confederation (with Jordan) of two independent sovereign states," adding that the Palestinian state could be demilitarized. Yet other analysts found the brouhaha all too stagey. Rather, they pointed to brief encounters and fleeting brushes in the wings.

One little-noticed meeting was between Nimrod Novick and Ossama El-Baz, respectively advisers to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and President Mubarak, on 5 February.

Israeli Embassy sources admitted that they discussed the Palestinian question, reporting that Novick was in Rome for a single day for generic 'contacts with Italian political figures.' Surprisingly enough, given the situation, they also volunteered that there was a 'good atmosphere' during the exchange of 'information and opinions' between the two men.

All the information will have to be in on Shamir's visit and other

developments in a vastly mobile situation before hindsight can decree whether this apparently marginal encounter was a concrete step down a road for which Rome was a crossroad.

The panorama during what one doubting editorialist described as "The Middle Eastern crisis's Roman holiday" was certainly hyperactive, but the crisis roads now seem to lead beyond Roman horizons, following scarcely legible, sometimes discordant signposts.

Writing in the authoritative Milanese daily, Corriere della Sera, a leading commentator, Arrigo Levi, argued that they point to Israel, whose dilemma is "whether the democratic, Jewish state is more important than the (occupied) territories."

For other Italian experts, they point elsewhere. "The major responsibility in this very delicate moment," said the leftist daily, Il Manifesto, "falls on Europe, which, let's not forget, is the Holocaust's homeland, and on the United States and the Soviet Union, the two godfathers at Israel's birth."

Was Rome just the stage for a highly public bout of diplomatic trafficking? Or the site of effective diplomatic brokerage by the Italian and Vatican personalities involved?

Productively enough, there was only one watchdog at the Italian foreign ministry: diplomacy. "The Anglo-Saxons say: no smoke without a fire," conceded one diplomatic official. "Those inveterate skeptics, the Romans, say: much smoke, little roast. We hope, at least, that there is something tasty boiling in the pot."

Marco Brunelli is a writer and researcher based in Rome.

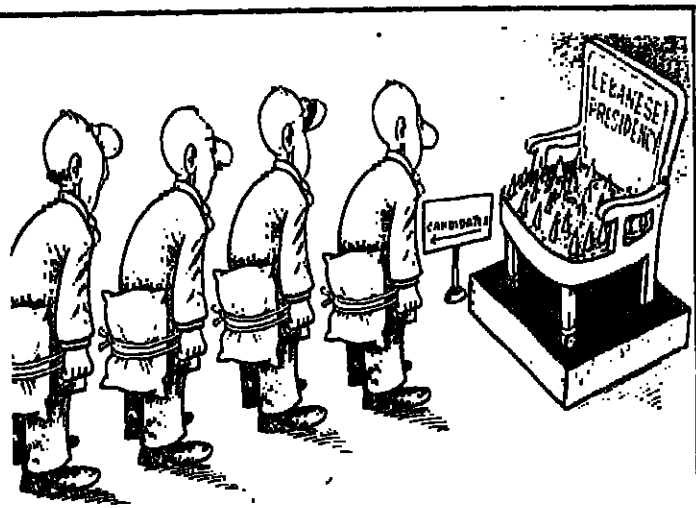
Warming up for the election

THERE MAY be no primaries and party caucuses, but the presidential election season is well under way in Lebanon — though the identity of the likely winner is even more unpredictable than the name of the next American president.

There is certainly no shortage of names being bandied about in the salons of East Beirut and the corridors of power in Damascus. But the universal feeling is that such speculations are premature, since certain things will have to fall into place before the elections can even take place. President Amin Gemayel's six-year term of office ends in September.

In a country as fragmented and penetrated as Lebanon, it goes without saying that the outside powers involved play a major role in the presidential contest. In 1978, the Syrians, who had just sent their army into Lebanon at the request of the Christians, backed Elias Sarkis. In 1982, the Israelis invaded and lifted Bashir Gemayel to power, though he did not live to wield it.

But this year, things are not so simple. The Syrians were able to see both the Israelis and the Americans off, and last year sent their troops back to West Beirut. They are recognized even by the competing outside powers as the predominant external force, without whose cooperation nothing can be achieved.



The approach of the "constitutional deadline" set by the presidential election has prompted intervention from a perhaps unlikely quarter to try to bridge the gaps — from the Americans. Tacitly accepting that Syria has the predominant outside role, they have taken on the task of trying to mediate between Damascus and President Gemayel on a political formula for Lebanon's future — the issue over which they fell out over two years ago when Gemayel helped drive out the Christian militia leader, Elie Hobeika, who had signed a Syrian-sponsored accord.

Washington's decision to swallow its pride and offer its good offices to the Syrians —

them that their future and identity are safe.

And so the process is under way, but how it will turn out is highly unpredictable. At present, the focus seems to be largely on negotiating the fine points of a settlement formula. Some observers see it as unrealistic to hope for agreement on the country's future as a preliminary to the elections. The usual circular arguments have surfaced, with some hard-line Christians arguing that the Syrians and Israelis must withdraw first, and leave the Lebanese free to work out their own settlement.

Despite the unresolved situation, numerous names have been thrown up as presidential hopefuls. Only two have actually declared their candidacies: Dany Chamoun, son of former President Camille Chamoun and leader of the National Liberal Party, and Lebanon's current ambassador in Paris, Faruq Abu Lama.

Another ambassador, and former head of the Deuxieme Bureau, Johnny Abdo, is said to have strong Saudi backing, but salon rumour has it that he and the current army commander, Michel Aoun, have been vetoed by the Lebanese Forces. Many other names have been mentioned.

But as one well-placed observer put it: "There are 56 men in the field today, but it is the 57th who will win."

Middle East International

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Agony of Israel's supporters in France

Israel has enjoyed unreserved support of the Jewish community in France but the recent events have shaken the French belief — and confidence — in the wisdom of the Israeli actions in the occupied territories.

By Zafar Masud
Special to The Star

PARIS — Two incidents, more than US Secretary of State George Shultz's Middle East tour and his long-for-peace plan, have kept the French preoccupied with the Arab-Israeli question.

Against the backdrop of the three-month-old "War of the Stones" in the Israeli-occupied territories, with its attendant gory spectacles of killings and beatings, French attention has been transfixed on two events outside the immediate perimeter.

These were the Palestinian raid on a bus carrying workers to the nuclear plant in Dimona, southern Israel, on 7 March and the murders on 14 February of three Falah fighters in Limassol, Cyprus. The French sought connections between the two and the wider questions of the Palestinian uprising and attempted the inevitable: a singular French perspective on the Middle East.

French newspaper reports liberally pointed to the suspicion that the Israeli secret service Mossad's agents were responsible for the killings in Cyprus and that the Palestinian attack on the bus could only be retribution for that.

The linkage meant that one incident could not be considered without the other but, as it emerged, that was telling only half the story. Israel's supporters in France endorse the Jewish state's actions unreservedly, as indeed Palestinian sympathizers make no secret of their loyalties. There are numerous individuals and groups on both sides of the spectrum, but the Jewish community as a whole emerges as the stronger of the two lobbies.

In the aftermath of the Dimona incident, the pro-Israel lobby re-



Israeli policy remains obstinate towards protests

lected optimism that the Palestinians' use of violence might after all dispel the popular television image of the stone-throwing Palestinian facing the heavily armed Israeli soldier.

These supporters of Israel were rewarded when the French government momentarily abandoned its stance of sitting on the fence and issued a statement condemning the bus incident.

This had the effect of spreading consternation in the pro-Palestinian circles which, although unhappy with the Parisian pretense of not taking sides, at least had been content with the government's avowed 'neutrality'.

The government statement dissolved their complacency and revived fears that a return to "old style" violence would undo gains resulting from a wave of universal sympathy with the Palestinian victims of state repression in Israel. In the past 20 years of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, each

violent incident has been used by Israeli's supporters to strengthen the argument in favour of perpetuating the occupation.

But, while there is little guarantee that further Palestinian raids will not wipe off that new veneer of sympathy, the Palestinian lobby's fears have proven to be unfounded. Israel's supporters in France, as Israel's supporters in the United States, have been going through a period of soul-searching. No decisive shifts are in evidence, but the debate that is going on currently is far from one-sided.

Jewish intellectual circles, for example, are increasingly inclined to think that the Israelis, trapped in their own logic of occupation, have little except force to offer to the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli writer A.B. Yehoshua speaks for many of these intellectuals. In a recent comment, he called for a dialogue between Is-

rael and the Palestine Liberation Organization to discuss Palestinian self-determination. His argument was provocative enough; he said he believed that the PLO today is in pretty much the same position as the Jewish Agency of the pre-1948 years, which negotiated the establishment of the state of Israel.

The occupied territories must be freed in order to escape the irrefutable logic of military repression, said Yehoshua. He suggested that a confederation of Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian lands on the lines of the European Economic Community might be the answer.

However, there are many obstacles to this particular Utopia. George Shultz's plan, rejected by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who claims its only acceptable feature is the name of its author, may have been the first step toward a solution, but now it's doomed, too.

Within the Israeli supporters' circles there are signs of considerable angst over the Shultz plan, which calls for open international negotiations and elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The support from the ranks of Shimon Peres' Labor Party, coalition partners with Shamir's Likud, is not to be underestimated in the wider context of the mood in the international Jewish community.

The attitude of this community is perhaps best encapsulated by former foreign minister Abba Eban, who said recently that "time is running short and there is no military solution to the problem." Or by another foreign minister, Ezer Weizmann, who commented that "The evil is deeply rooted and we have no solutions to offer either to the Palestinians of the occupied territories or to the Arabs living in Israel."

It's an argument that has further convinced supporters of Israel that the uprising is spontaneous and, therefore, will be harder to control than anything experienced earlier. Not surpris-

ingly, there has been much reflection on the description offered by the Israeli newspaper HaDochot, which called the Palestinian situation "a human time-bomb."

Although the French government has refrained from taking sides, with the exception of issuing the statement on the Dimona raid, there is obvious unease in the pro-Israel lobby on its next direction. The monthly publication L'Arche claimed recently that 98 per cent of French Jews supported the Israeli government's action, but the figure was not backed by any opinion poll.

The strongest Jewish organization in France, CRIF (Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives en France) was more diplomatic in its affirmation: "We have confidence in Israel to act, respecting the human rights and dignity of the individual."

The eminent Jewish intellectual, Professor Lazare Landau, said: "There are many among us who believe that the Israeli government should have used some imagination by cultivating a policy of co-operation rather than occupation in the troubled territories."

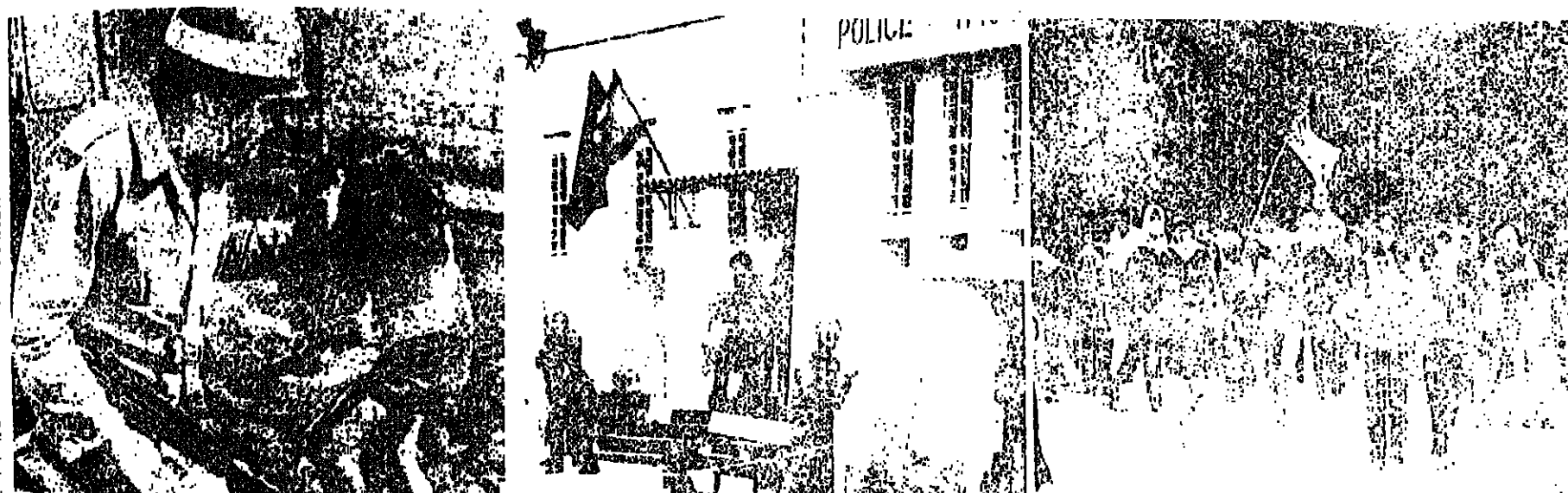
Despite Israeli claims that much of the trouble has been "the work of foreign newsmen," now barred from covering the events in the West Bank and Gaza, Israeli's supporters in France persist in believing that events have gone beyond Israeli's control already.

With more than 130 people dead, 300 resignations by Arab policemen in the occupied territories, strikes among the half-million strong Arab community in Israel and Palestinian executions of collaborators, events have moved inexorably toward a "human time-bomb" situation. Shamir has said that he would resist the American proposals and that his power of resistance was great. But is it also inexhaustible?

Zafar Masud is a Paris-based writer and researcher.

Blackout and coercion

Israeli authorities close PPS and seal the occupied territories



Israeli soldier dragging a small girl by her hair

Soldiers fire live ammunition in Manger Square in Bethlehem

The uprisers waiting the occupiers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agence) — Israeli troops killed two Palestinians and wounded 18 in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday. Hospital officials said, and authorities closed a key Arab information service.

The clashes came despite a closure of the occupied territories and beefed-up security in Arab villages on an annual day of violent Palestinian protest.

Also Wednesday, a supreme court panel denied a request by the foreign press to overturn the closure and allow media access to the occupied territories, but ordered the army to explain within 30 days why journalists should not be permitted to enter freely.

However, Israel closed a key Arab information service Palestine Press Service Wednesday, deployed 4,000 police in Israel's Arab sectors and shot dead a Palestinian woman in the occupied West Bank as she ate breakfast with her family, army and hospital officials said.

Ibrahim Karan, Publisher of the press service, called the order "another act of repression. Israeli officials are trying to impose a complete blackout on what is happening in the occupied territories."

He said police told him the agency was being closed in part because it was founded by the Palestine Liberation Organization, an allegation he denied.

Karan vowed he and other agency employees would continue providing information to foreign journalists as stringers. "All we need is a telephone."

The tight security failed to prevent a clash in Deir Abu Masnah, a West Bank village 35 kilometres northwest of Jerusalem, in which troops killed a woman and wounded three family members.

Israeli's army sealed off the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip on Tuesday, setting up roadblocks to keep out nearly all journalists, Israeli civilians and Arab visitors.

Israeli authorities confined the 650,000 Arab residents of the Gaza Strip to their homes from 10 a.m. (2000 GMT) Monday until 3 a.m. (1200 GMT) Friday. Telephone links also were cut.

In the West Bank, where 650,000 Arabs live, the bridges to Jordan were left open for incoming traffic and residents were not confined to their homes or deprived of telephone service.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the measures were taken to forestall large-scale Palestinian demonstrations Wednesday on land day.

The Palestine Liberation Organization had called for protests to observe the 12th anniversary of a clash over land confiscation. Six Arabs were fatally shot by soldiers 30 March, 1976.

In the West Bank village of Zaita, 65 kilometres (40 miles) northwest of Jerusalem, hundreds of Palestinians threw gasoline bombs and clashed with soldiers, the army said. The Palestine Press Service reported at least four Arabs wounded by army gunfire and provided names.

The agency also reported demonstrations in the Al-Aman refugee camp near Ramallah, and Israeli troops imposed a curfew on the West Bank towns of Qabatiyah and Jenin.

In the Gaza Strip, violent protests broke out as soon as Palestinians learned of the curfew, Israeli army radio said, but reported no injuries. In the strip's Jabalyia refugee camp Tuesday, troops fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse youths who set tires ablaze, the radio said.

In a continued mass arrest campaign targeted at underground leaders of the Arab uprising, troops have detained hundreds of Palestinians since the weekend, Israeli radio said. The army confirmed it was making large numbers of arrests to try to prevent violence on the "Land Day" 30 March when Arabs annually demonstrate against Israeli land confiscation and policies in the territories. Arabs from the Jabalyia refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip and 10 from the West Bank village of Idna near Hebron were arrested overnight, according to the PPS and other Arab reports.

Ten visiting American and European academics denied Monday that Israeli troops entered the West Bank village of Salfit to protect their tour group. A 14-year-old boy was killed in an ensuing clash.

"We are deeply distressed to learn from media reports that the army entered the village under the pretext of protecting our tourist bus," the statement said.

The academics, who were participating in a forum on the West Bank sponsored by Bir Zeit University, spent about 45 minutes in the village and were

graciously received, Don Peretz, a professor at State University of New York in Binghamton, said in an interview. He said troops then escorted the bus out of the village without incident and as they were leaving, the academics saw an army convoy enter Salfit.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops shot and killed three Palestinian protesters Sunday in an early morning raid on a West Bank village, hospital officials and an Arab news agency said. An army spokesman said reports of the deaths were being investigated.

The Israeli-appointed Gaza Mayor, Hamza Turkmani, offered his resignation and expected a reply later in the week, according to the PPS.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops killed two Palestinians in a violent

The reporters said there were arrests in Jabalia, Nuseirat and Burej refugee camps. Witnesses said several hundreds of detainees arrived overnight at a Gaza Strip detention centre.

Demonstrations in several West Bank and Gaza Strip cities demanded the resignation of municipal councils, following the lead of a clandestine PLO leaflet calling for Saturday to be "The day of struggle against municipal councils and appointed village councils."

The Israeli-appointed Gaza Mayor, Hamza Turkmani, offered his resignation and expected a reply later in the week, according to the PPS.

Honour Roll

Hussein Kamal Odeh, 18, Salfit — West Bank
Fahim Mahmoud Noeiri, 27, Maytholon — West Bank
Omar Rabayah, 21, Maytholon — West Bank
Ghassan Qasim Noeiri, 17, Maytholon — West Bank
Yaser Asad Al-Herbawi, 14, Salfit — West Bank
Majid Hussein Dheeb, 19, Kufr Thulth — West Bank
Awad Qasim Ibrahim Marabeh, 30, Kufr Thulth — West Bank
Ayed Subhi Saleh, 21, Zawata — West Bank
Nabila Ali Al-Yazaji, 30, Sheikh Radhwan — Gaza Strip
Khaled Hassan Al-Margtan, 20, Tarqumia — West Bank
Walid Abdul Fattah Fataftah, 18, Tarqumia — West Bank
Majeed Sawalmeh, 21, Balata Camp — West Bank
Mohammad Ali Abu Zar, 18, Balata camp-West Bank
Mostafa Farroukh, 60, Shah Camp-Gaza Strip

West Bank clash Saturday and another died of wounds suffered earlier. The Israeli-appointed mayor of Gaza city offered his resignation in response to a PLO demand for Arab municipal councils to quit. The army said nine other Palestinians were wounded by gunfire in clashes on the West Bank.

Arab reporters in the Gaza Strip said troops continued a pattern of overnight arrests in an apparent attempt to choke off demonstrations planned for the Palestinian "Land Day" on March 30. On that date in 1976, Israeli gunfire killed six Arabs during rioting against the forced purchase of 1,500 acres of Arab-owned land by the Israeli authorities.

Leaders of the Israeli Arabs decided to stage a general strike to commemorate the Day but warned their followers on Saturday to abide by the law, Israeli radio said.

ing to knowledgeable municipal officials, who asked for anonymity. The PLO leaflet called for demonstrations "to rid us of these appointed councils, and the people of the uprising will be severe with anyone who refuses to resign immediately."

In the West Bank town of El-Birah, Arab protesters marched to the municipal building demanding the resignation of council members, and troops responded with tear-gas and rubber bullets, the PPS said.

In the Biblical city of Bethlehem, slogans painted on the walls called for the resignation of municipal council members.

Early in the week Israeli troops stormed a West Bank hospital and a mosque as clashes erupted between security forces and protesters in the occupied territories, leaving two Palestinians dead and wounded.

However, the army closed main areas of the Gaza Strip

and the West Bank to media coverage, including the Hebron area where the most violent clashes took place on Friday.

About 50 troops fired tear-gas and rubber bullets into Hebron's Al-Hospital compound to subdue about 100 protesters hurling stones and bottles, hospital officials and Arab reports said. Later, soldiers stormed the hospital to arrest Arab youths who barricaded themselves on the roof, the army said.

Associated Press reporters saw troops surrounding Hebron's Al-Haras Mosque after Friday's Muslim prayers and fire live ammunition and tear-gas from the rooftops of four nearby houses at several dozen stone-throwing Arab youths positioned on the roof. Four Palestinians were wounded, hospital officials and Israeli radio reported.

After a two-hour confrontation, soldiers stormed the mosque, yanked down Palestinian flags raised by the protesters and made dozens of Arab teenagers line up against a wall. The army said 50 Arabs were arrested. The army said it was forced to break in when the stone-throwers refused to surrender.

Meanwhile, the Roman Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem decided to suspend the Palm Sunday procession because of the possibility of violence along its narrow, winding route through Arab East Jerusalem, said the Rev. Saoud Baratto, director of the Christian Information Center.

On the other hand Secretary of State George Shultz met Saturday with two members of a group affiliated with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Professors Edward Said of Columbia University and Ibrahim Abu Lughud met for more than an hour with Shultz at his invitation. "We conveyed to Secretary Shultz the urgent need to lift Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza as a preparatory step on the road to achieving peaceful coexistence between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews," said Said after the meeting. The professor earlier said he had been in touch with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat about the session with Shultz.

Department Spokesman Charles Radman said Shultz made the decision to return to the Middle East on Friday after meeting Philip Habib, his chief negotiator on Middle East problems. He will arrive in Jerusalem on Sunday, 3 April, and visit Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia the following week.

Truth also a victim

FOUR ARABS were killed on Sunday, three men who attacked an army unit at the village of Melthalun, and a boy of 14 at the town of Salfit. What did the boy do to lose his life?

According to the army spokesman soldiers entered the town to aid a tourist bus that had turned into it by mistake and called for help after being surrounded by a hostile mob. Shooting into a crowd of townspeople that greeted them with rocks and iron bars, the soldiers killed the

boy. The bus later left town undamaged. This was the account that was published in yesterday's newspapers, including The Jerusalem Post, though it was denied by Arab sources.

an Israeli view point

But yesterday it emerged that what really happened bore but a marginal relation to the army spokesman's account.

What occurred was that some 30 US academics, at-

ter attending a two-day Bir Zeit University conference on 20 years of Israeli occupation of the territories, took a university bus for a visit of Salfit, where they were well received. On their way out they stopped at an army roadblock, where they duly informed the soldiers of their business in the area.

In the meantime, however, someone at the nearby settlement of Tappuah apparently informed the army that a bus had been hijacked by some hooded persons, who led it into Salfit. The army, it appears, rushed in without checking the facts after the bus already left.

The army's blunder was bad enough. When the unit entered Salfit it was attacked and the report that was taken up the chain of command said it was attacked while trying to rescue the bus. The army spokesman, who was also misled, endorsed the erroneous tale.

It is almost as though a deliberate attempt was made to prove to the American visitors that what they had heard at Bir Zeit about Israeli conduct as an occupying power was hardly an exaggeration.

The Jerusalem Post

ADC attacks Israeli measures

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT by Israeli authorities that they are sealing off the West Bank and Gaza Strip was denounced by the president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) Mr Abdeen Jabara.

Israeli authorities announced that the 800,000 Palestinians in the West Bank are restricted to their towns, villages and refugee camps and that the 650,000 Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip would be confined to their houses for the next three days.

Jewish settlers in the occupied Territories will enjoy continued freedom of movement.

"This latest action by the Israeli occupation authorities makes the comparisons of Israel with South Africa

even more valid," Jabara said.

This action follows last week's cutting off of international phone calls to the occupied territories, the suspension of the Arabic language Israeli newspaper, Al-Itihad, and the imposition of severe collective economic punishment against residents in the West Bank.

"The continued nightly arrests and detention without trial of hundreds of Palestinian youths in newly erected detention facilities has been aimed at crushing the will of the Palestinian people under occupation to continue their mass protests," Jabara stated, announcing a Wednesday 30th March protest demonstration before the Israeli Embassy at 12 noon.

Press release

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31 MARCH 1988

Statement of support

ISLAMIC-CHRISTIAN forum Tuesday held a meeting attended by several prominent Islamic and Christian religious personalities, including Mr Kamel El-Sherif, Archbishop El-Khoury, Mr Hassan Al-Tal, Mr Carlos Dumas, Mr Raouf Abu Jaber, Mr Fud Faraj, Dr Mohammed Saqr, Sheikh Mottaq Al-Mohaseb, Dr Ezzat Jaradat and others.

The participants discussed the latest developments of the uprising on the occasion of "Land Day" and means to support our people's steadfastness while confronting the occupiers.

At the end of their meeting, the members of the audience issued a statement in which they highlighted the necessity to support the uprising and appeal to Arab and Islamic peoples and public organizations to denounce the Israeli practices. The statement called on the ulama and the clergymen to acquit the believers with the Israeli practices against the Palestinians and their land.

Finally the participants decided to send cables to UNO secretary general, OIC secretary general, and Pope John Paul II urging them to support the uprising.

Land Day Facts and expectations

By Wafa Amr
Special to The Star

Wednesday marked the 12th anniversary of the Land Day. This is the symbol of Palestinian struggle and sacrifice to resist Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands.

On 30 March, 1976 the Arab population of Palestine occupied in 1948 revolted against, and publicly expressed their rejection of, Israeli oppressive measures aimed at evicting them from their ancestral homeland. On that day, six young men were killed while protesting against the confiscation of their land in Galilee. It is the day of Palestinian anger against Zionist occupation and seizure of land, and at the Israeli policy of racial discrimination between Arabs and Jews.

This year, the Land Day comes at a time when the Palestinian popular uprising is at its peak, to give this day a new meaning. It reflects the unity of all the Palestinian people, in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and in Palestine occupied in 1948, calling for a united destiny and equality of treatment.

During the four months of popular revolt in the occupied territories, the Arabs of 1948 occupied Palestine stood up with their brothers and proved to the Israeli authorities that they are Palestinians in origin. The "Israeli Arabs", as they are called, have not been assimilated in Israel.

Samih Al-Qassem, the famous Palestinian poet born in Nazareth, was quoted as saying in the "Al-Yaum Al-Sabe" Paris-based magazine: "We have always believed in the unity of our people despite being in different geographical and political locations. As we are a part of our people, and are Israeli (citizens), we attempt to pressure Israel in order to change its policy, and on the other hand, we develop and promote the struggle of our people."

The participation of Arabs in 1948 occupied Palestine in the struggle of their brothers in the occupied territories led to hysterical Israeli reactions, as they did not know how to deal with the unified upsurge of Palestinians in all Palestine.

Israel has always treated "Israeli Arabs" as second class citizens, and deprived them of their basic rights as citizens. In 1948, the Arabs were a majority, but after the 1948 war, they have become a national minority, in a state



Palestinians commemorating Land Day in occupied Palestine

that treats them as strangers and refuses to recognize them even as a national minority, with national and civil rights.

According to a study prepared in the occupied territories, and published by Dar Al-Jalil publishing house, Israel destroyed 478 villages out of a total of 585 in the 1948 war. 780,000 Palestinians were made refugees as a consequence, and in 1967, 350,000 followed.

Out of the 700 thousand "Israeli Arabs", who were farmers originally, 77 per cent are paid labourers as a result of Israeli designs to destroy their agricultural structure. Abdul-Jawad Saleh, the deposed mayor of El-Bireh, believes that this division of labour is part of a premeditated Israeli policy. "Israel is against the full equality between Arabs and Jews in the 1948 territories. Its policy is to keep them as water-drawers and wood-hewers," he said. "This stems from the Israeli concept of the exclusivity of the Jewish state."

Al-Jalil study also noted that during the last 40 years, the Arab population quadrupled while their lands decreased 18 times the original. They own today around 5 per cent of agricultural land, despite

the fact that they make up 17 per cent of the population.

In Galilee, they own only 8-10 per cent of the land, yet they constitute 50 per cent of its population. In 1986, the budget of the local Arab municipalities reached only 4 per cent of the total budget allocated for all the towns and villages in Israel (i.e. 8 million New Israeli Sheqel (NIS) out of 200 million NIS).

As for the educational sector, the number of Arab students is 220 thousand, in other words, every fifth student in the country is an Arab, but they are not provided with the fifth of the educational facilities or budget of the Jewish citizens. 200 thousand Arabs are not provided with local or municipal services as there are no elected or appointed local administrative bodies in most Arab villages.

The Arabs of 1948 occupied Palestine thus have played an increasingly strong role in supporting the uprising of Palestinians in the occupied territories, in their uprising, yet they call out for equality of treatment and for their national rights as citizens.

Mr Saleh told The Star that this year's Land Day does not differ from the rest of the days during the four months

of the uprising. "Demonstrations and strikes will be carried on, yet the distinguished part of it lies in the feeling of Arabs in the 1948 and the occupied territories that the status quo cannot be maintained," he added.

"They (the Palestinians) suffered from discrimination long enough, they have stood up and supported their brothers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, because there is an organic link between the two," Mr Saleh, who is a Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Central Council member explained.

Saleh said that the Land Day is a special day for the Arab population in the 1948 occupied territories. "It is the day of equality. They call for complete and comprehensive equality, while the uprisers in the 1967 occupied territories call for ending the Israeli occupation from all of Palestinian lands and for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state." Yet, how far are the "Israeli Arabs" willing to go along with the Palestinian uprising?

Palestine National Council (PNC) member Ahmad Al-Jamal said that this year's Land Day is a Palestinian day for all the Arabs in Palestine, and that the land is Arab. "It sym-

bolizes the Palestinian people's attachment to their land and commitment to their right of return to their homeland," Mr Jamal said.

Thus the struggle to preserve the land has become the main concern of both the Arabs of Israel and the Palestinians inside the occupied territories. Around 52 per cent of the lands in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has been confiscated by Israel since 1967.

So the Land Day has been connected to the defence of the Arab land by its owners, and this year's Land Day came at a time when the uprising is at its peak in protest against the same reasons that mark that day.

The Israeli authorities have decided to put all effort to quell the uprising. They have deployed 4000 policemen in the 1948 Arab localities to prevent "anticipated trouble" by the demonstrators on 30 March.

The Israeli authorities have also arrested many "suspected activists", and the Israeli troops have sealed the occupied territories for three consecutive days.

Furthermore, the Land Day precedes the 12th Knesset elections, which gives the Arabs of 1948 Palestine the chance to strongly arrange for a Palestinian Arab ally never witnessed before. This would lead to a unified Arab position to enter the battle of elections and bringing in the largest number of Arab representatives in the Israeli Knesset who support the PLO, the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

As the Arab population in Palestine occupied in 1948 comprise 17 per cent of the population, theoretically, they can enter the Israeli Knesset with 20 representatives, who will play a significant role in forming the next Israeli government.

Palestinian analysts said that this day reflects new developments in the way Israel will react to the Land Day events and massive demonstrations in the occupied territories. "The point has reached a dangerous stage. It has become a challenge for the Israelis to prove to themselves and to the Palestinians that they are the rulers of the land, not the PLO, embodied in the United National Command of the uprising."

Mr Jamal said that the uprising is a challenge to the Zionist and military concept of the mere existence of the Jewish state. "Israel has given Washington the promise to quell the uprising by mid-April, and it will try to do so by any means available."

We expect Israel to commit a massacre while the territories are sealed off from any outside contact," said a Palestinian observer. On their part, the Palestinians have shown the world that the fire of their uprising will not be crushed by oppression and counter repressive measures.

According to analysts, the Palestinian people are ready for great sacrifices in order to achieve the goals of the uprising.

Revolt crystallizes



Palestinian defiance generation



Soldiers clubbing a youth in Ramallah



Students and their guardians in a school changed into a makeshift prison



Massive demonstrations against policy of starvation



Future leaders on the way of liberation



Crackdown continues



Women lament a martyr while raising a flag



Crackdown continues

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ORIENT EXPRESS

● **JOURNÉE DE LA TERRE** — Le 30 mars 1978, date de déclenchement des grandes manifestations des "arabes d'Israël" (vivant sur les territoires octroyés à l'Etat hébreu en 1948), est devenu une date symbole de la lutte du peuple palestinien pour sa terre. La journée de la Terre de 1988 constitue un événement particulier: elle a marqué le 118ème jour du soulèvement "des pierres", commencé en décembre.

L'événement spectaculaire de la jeunesse palestinienne illustre l'impitoyable leçon de l'histoire: "Quand un peuple décide de vivre, il force le destin à lui répondre" (Al-Chabi, poète arabe). Les habitants des territoires occupés apportent la preuve quotidienne que l'avènement d'un Etat palestinien est une nécessité incontournable et irrédicible.

Le consensus profond sur ce qu'il faut faire et l'auto-discipline prouvent une maturité révolutionnaire et une politisation profonde chez les manifestants, qui ont compris l'importance de l'opinion internationale. La révolution des pierres fait de plus en plus apparaître le terrorisme d'Etat dans toute sa brutalité et son refus de paix. Ilzak Shamir accepte un seul mot dans le plan Shultz: la signature du secrétaire d'Etat. Le soulèvement pose la véritable équation israélienne-Palestiniens, et non Juifs-Arabs. Israël prétendait depuis toujours qu'il était "le petit Etat démocratique et civilisé entouré de 50 millions d'ennemis".

AHMAD KHADRA

● **L'OCI SOUTIEN L'OLP** — A l'issue de la réunion des ministres des Affaires étrangères de l'Organisation de la Conférence islamique, le 26 mars à Amman, l'OCI a réaffirmé son appel à "la création d'un Etat palestinien indépendant sur son sol national, avec pour capitale Jérusalem, sous la direction de l'OLP, son unique représentant légitime".

● **LES ETATS-UNIS VEULENT FERMER LA MISSION DE L'OLP A L'ONU** — Les Etats-Unis ont entrepris de fermer, à New York, les locaux de la mission de l'OLP auprès de l'ONU, en vertu d'une loi "anti-terroriste" votée en 1985 par le Congrès, après l'affaire de l'achète Lauro. Le gouvernement a tenté le 22 mars une procédure devant le Tribunal fédéral. Seul Israël soutient Washington dans cette initiative.

● **NOUVELLES ATTAQUES ISRAËLIENNES AU SUD LIBAN** — Trois positions palestiniennes ont été bombardées les 23 mars par l'aviation israélienne. A l'est de Saida, (saint) sept morts et quinze blessés. L'Etat hébreu a refusé de déposer plainte au Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU.

● **IRAK, BOMBARDE LES KURDES A L'ARABIE CHIMIQUE** — L'aviation irakienne a bombardé les Kurdes réfugiés dans le désert du sud-ouest de l'Irak. Les Kurdes ont été bombardés par des avions irakiens, utilisant des armes chimiques, selon l'agence de presse Reuters. Les Kurdes ont été bombardés par des avions irakiens, utilisant des armes chimiques, selon l'agence de presse Reuters. Les Kurdes ont été bombardés par des avions irakiens, utilisant des armes chimiques, selon l'agence de presse Reuters.

L'ISOLEMENT DES TERRITOIRES OCCUPÉES

Palestiniens: la ligne coupée

Le mercredi 30 mars, "Journée de la Terre", est venu rappeler la douleur du peuple palestinien, dont plus de la moitié a quitté son sol natal depuis 1948 et 1967. La communication avec ceux qui sont restés était déjà difficile avant le soulèvement. Mais aujourd'hui, les Israéliens s'efforcent de couper totalement les ponts entre membres séparés d'une même famille.

Samir, 34 ans, a quitté en juillet dernier sa ville natale de Qalqilia (Cisjordanie), pour travailler à Amman. Sa fiancée est restée là-bas. Il ne l'a pas revue depuis, et ses dernières nouvelles datent de janvier. Téléphone impossible, courrier aléatoire, visite au pays risquée. Alors, Samir dévore les journaux, suit de près radios et télévision. C'est dans les colonnes du "Dustour" qu'il a appris récemment la mort d'un ami d'enfance, tué par les Israéliens. A 150 km d'ici.

Depuis le début de du soulèvement palestinien, en décembre dernier, les communications entre les territoires occupés et l'extérieur ont été considérablement réduites par les autorités israéliennes. Les télécommunications, jusque-là impossibles avec les pays arabes, sont désormais totalement coupées pour tout l'étranger. Les relations postales se limitent aujourd'hui aux pays non arabes. Quant aux lettres sur le pont Hussein, il est passé d'une moyenne de 300 personnes par jour à moins de 30 traversées quotidiennes, les deux sens confondus.

Postiers de fortune

Sur 4 millions de Palestiniens recensés dans le monde, moins de la moitié vit actuellement dans les territoires occupés par Israël. Une grande partie d'entre eux sont réfugiés dans les pays arabes, notamment en Jordanie. Mais beaucoup ne sont venus à Amman que temporairement, pour étudier ou, comme Samir, pour trouver du travail (tout résident de Cisjordanie a la nationalité jordanienne). La nouvelle situation imposée à ces derniers, séparés de leur famille, est encore plus cruelle: malgré la proximité géographique, il leur est très difficile de correspondre avec les leurs. Téléphone? Pas de ligne. En cas d'urgence, l'appelle mon cousin à Paris, qui joint lui-même ma famille, pour transmettre "mon message". Ensuite, il me rappelle pour me donner la réponse, explique Ahmad Khadra, 21 ans. Coût de l'appel: pour lui, 7 JD minimum, pour une conversation réduite à l'essentiel. D'autres sont souvent même obligés d'appeler aux Etats-Unis, où ils ont de la famille.

Avant la coupure de la ligne internationale, un Chypriote offrait aux Palestiniens un service moins coûteux: avec un appareil portable, il pouvait mettre en relation directe des résidents des territoires occupés avec leurs correspondants en pays arabes. Il suffisait ensuite de lui envoyer un chèque.



Les passages sur le pont King Hussein se font rares depuis le début du soulèvement: comment communiquer?

Pour échanger du courrier, plusieurs solutions. La plus courante consiste à confier son enveloppe à un tiers qui va traverser le pont. On trouve ces "postiers" improvisés au départ des taxis vers la Cisjordanie, place Abdali. Si le pont franchi, ils déposent le courrier dans une boîte aux lettres israélienne. "Mais il n'y a pas de ces informations personnelles, car on est pratiquement sûr que ces lettres seront ouvertes par la censure israélienne", souligne Hassan, étudiant. Cette condition vaut également dans le sens inverse. De plus, le courrier transmis par ce canal ne parvient pas toujours à son destinataire. "Pour contourner ces inconvénients, continue Hassan, il est plus sûr d'adresser sa lettre au General Post Master, à Londres, qui renvoie le courrier dans les territoires occupés". En provenance d'Europe, la correspondance est en effet moins surveillée par les Israéliens. Mais avec ce système, une lettre met plus d'un mois à effectuer cet étrange parcours triangulaire.

Alors, pour les cas très urgents, le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge organise un service rapide de télégrammes familiaux. Les messages sont transmis par radio à la délégation de la Croix-Rouge en Cisjordanie, qui se charge de porter un télégramme au destinataire. "Ainsi, on peut recevoir une message en un ou deux jours, précise un Palestinien à Amman, qui se souvient avoir ainsi appris le décès de son père. Le système fonctionne dans les deux sens, et la Croix-Rouge a transmis en 1988 quelque 5.000 messages de ce type. Mais de telles communications directes (lettres, téléphone, messages) ne constituent qu'une faible partie de l'information quotidienne des Palestiniens sur leur famille.

Les médias offrent également leur support. Dans les journaux en arabe, on publie dans la me-

sure du possible le nom des victimes de la répression israélienne. Mais c'est "Al Ouds" ("Jérusalem"), radio palestinienne émettant du sud de la Syrie, que les intéressés jugent la plus rapide et la plus précise des sources d'information sur le soulèvement. "Sur cette antenne, on mentionne toujours le nombre exact de personnes arrêtées, les lieux des affrontements et le nom des victimes", estime un chauffeur de taxi.

La radio jordanienne, quant à elle, diffuse chaque jour pendant un quart d'heure "Lettres de nostalgie", une émission de messages personnels. C'est ainsi que Mourid, étudiant à Amman, a retrouvé la trace de sa sœur: "Il y a deux mois, raconte-t-il, un ami m'a fait savoir qu'il venait d'entendre un message pour moi à la radio. Croyant d'abord à une plaisanterie, j'ai tout de même contacté la station, qui a confirmé: ma sœur, qui vit à Gaza, transmettait son adresse et me demandait la mienne. Et surtout, elle annonçait la naissance de sa fille, Samia". Mais en raison de l'isolement des territoires occupés, les messages vont surtout d'est en ouest.

Bouche à oreille

Traditionnellement, beaucoup d'information circule aussi par le bouche à oreille. "Quand les Israéliens ont passé à tabac mon cousin, lui disant les bruits et les rumeurs, il était à la maison", raconte un Palestinien. "Il y avait un traumatisme collectif, les gens se souvenaient de ce qu'ils avaient vu et entendu". Ce genre de nouvelles, quand elles parviennent incomplètes, déçoivent la souffrance. May, 22 ans, se souvient: "La Croix-Rouge nous avait dit que mon père était très malade. Impossible d'en savoir plus par mon frère, qui avait

quitté Paris. J'ai passé deux jours sans dormir, avant d'apprendre que mon père était mort".

Et pour ceux qui décident de se rendre chez leur famille, le voyage est pénible et risqué. Il faut tout d'abord subir l'humiliation des contrôles israéliens: "Les Palestiniens sont fouillés, souvent à nu, et se voient confier ou même briser sous leurs yeux tous les appareils électroniques qu'ils transportent. Interdiction d'emporter quoi que ce soit de neuf, qui pourrait être vendu", indique Souheil. "Si je retourne chez moi maintenant, je risque de plus ne pas pouvoir ressortir quand je le veux, en raison des couvre-feux. Cela peut arriver à tout moment: personne ne rentre dans la ville, personne n'en sort". Et au retour, ceux qui travaillent à l'extérieur risquent de perdre leur emploi, pour absence prolongée. Chaque jour, confirme M. Abou Hayja, directeur de l'information au ministère des territoires occupés, 10 à 30 villes sont soumises au couvre-feu. Qabatie a ainsi été isolée 38 jours d'affilée. De plus, les Israéliens obligent désormais les jeunes de moins de 25 ans qui sortent des territoires à attendre 8 mois avant de pouvoir rentrer. Ils évitent ainsi de voir entrer temporairement des étudiants, menacés d'insécurité.

Pour M. Abou Al-Hayja, la limitation des communications est un élément très important de répression dans les territoires occupés. "On le soulève", a-t-il dit, "120 morts parmi les Israéliens, et on a plus de 5.000 personnes actuellement emprisonnées, selon des sources palestiniennes et les organisations humanitaires". Pas de presse, pas de contacts avec l'extérieur. Par "l'isolement physique et psychologique, ils espèrent étouffer la révolte".

FRANÇOIS PUCHOIX
SULEIMAN SWEISS

31 MARCH 1988

ILS EN PARLENT

Palestiniens: note de lecture

"Les Palestiniens d'une guerre à l'autre", par Eric Rouleau, éd. La Découverte/Le Monde (1985). Eric Rouleau, auteur et journaliste, a été grand reporter au journal Le Monde. Il a beaucoup voyagé au Moyen-Orient et a été ambassadeur de France en Algérie. Sa synthèse du problème palestinien conserve tout son intérêt, au moment où se joue l'avenir des territoires occupés.

L'auteur explique que dès le début, les Palestiniens ont refusé le pouvoir local ou l'autonomie interne qui leur a été offerte par les Israéliens, même avant les Accords de Camp David de 1978-1979.

Il donne en exemple l'entrevue de 1974 entre M. Shimon Peres, qui était alors ministre de la défense, et M. Hikmat el-Masri de Naplouse, ancien président du Parlement jordanien. Peres proposa à Masri et à d'autres notables de Cisjordanie et de Gaza le "pouvoir local" susceptible de conduire progressivement les territoires occupés à une forme d'autonomie interne. La formule indigna M. Masri qui répondit: "Pour qui vous prenez-vous? Une grande puissance coloniale traitant avec un peuple sous-développé? Je me per-

meta de vous rappeler que les Palestiniens luttent pour leur indépendance depuis un demi-siècle, que nos intellectuels sont parmi les plus nombreux et les plus brillants du monde arabe. "Les Palestiniens n'accepteront rien de moins que l'indépendance. Nous ne revendiquons plus toute la Palestine, mais seulement la partie que vous avez occupée en 1967. Nous acceptons la résolution 242 du Conseil de Sécurité; nous sommes disposés à reconnaître l'Etat d'Israël. Il est grand temps que vous fassiez preuve, à votre tour, de réalisme, et que vous reconnaissez notre droit à une existence nationale indépendante. "A quel vous référez-vous quand vous utilisez le terme "nous"? demande M. Peres. M. Masri répond: "C'est l'opinion de l'OLP, reconnue mondialement comme l'unique représentant légitime du peuple palestinien."

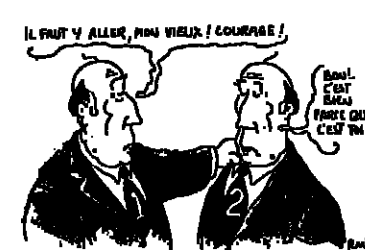
M. Rouleau ne suggère pas de solution au problème palestinien. Il expose simplement et brièvement les faits et les opinions des uns et des autres. Il est tout à fait objectif et impartial.

PASCAL B. KARMY

Ancien conseiller juridique à l'UNRWA à Beyrouth et à Vienne

FRANCE EN BREF

● **MITTERRAND CANDIDAT** — M. Mitterrand a annoncé le 22 mars sur Antenne 2 sa candidature aux élections présidentielles. Désignant implicitement Jacques Chirac comme son adversaire au second tour (ce dernier croise l'écart devant Raymond Barre dans les sondages), le président a tenu à propos du RPR des propos jugés virulents par la plupart des editorialistes: "Je veux que la France soit unie, et elle ne le sera pas si elle est prise en main par des esprits intolérants, par des partis qui veulent tout, par des clans qui des bandes. (...) Mieux vaut, et pas à moi seul, que j'étais en mesure de faire tout pour éviter ces germes de division dont le virus de parler", M. Chirac a dénoncé la "violence" et le "sectarisme" des propos de M. Mitterrand, que 53% des Français ont déclaré que dans l'hypothèse d'une réélection de M. Mitterrand, il ne consacrerait pas automatiquement un gouvernement désigné par celui-ci. C'est la troisième fois au cours de la Vème République qu'un président brigue un second mandat: le général de Gaulle avait été réélu en 1965 et Valéry Giscard d'Estaing avait été battu en 1981.



● **MODE: HAUT LES BASI** — Large bermuda au-dessus du genou, laissant apercevoir une très troublante bande de peau dévoilée par des bas à milouises: voilà la mode de printemps à laquelle vous avez échappé. Très en vogue chez les jeunes filles, on note également les chaussures basses "Doc Martens", à gros bout arrondi. En option le collier "chouchou", les larges ceintures façon années 70, et même les pantalons "yuppies", revêtus donc les hippies. Chez les Anglais, la dévotion fleurie des années 80 noires et géométriques a fait rage. Les nouveaux stylistes de Londres diffusent des tee-shirts Jean-Paul Gault-Yeah, Gorgeous Armani, Claude Monotoni et Yuppie Yamamoto, qui inonderont la France dès le 1er avril.



A vos marques!

Venez à l'avant à Amman le premier marathon jamais couru en Jordanie, au profit de l'association de charité pour les malades du cancer. Vous pouvez encore retirer des places (1 JD) à l'Hotel Ambassador et à la station-service Hajar, jusqu'à vendredi matin. Voici les lieux de rendez-vous: moins de 10 ans: 4 km, RV point de l'université; 10-15 ans: 3 km, RV station-service Hajar; 15-20 ans: 6 km, RV Bawley International; 20-25 ans: 5 km, RV Hotel Ambassador; 25-30 ans: 5 km, RV Petra Bank; 30-35 ans: 5 km, RV station-service Baraka (Garden Avenue); 35-40 ans: 4 km, RV station-service Baraka (Garden Avenue). Ne vous le rendez-vous est à 10h00.

31 MARCH 1988

A 25 KM D' AMMAN

Salt: balcons du passé



Façade typique de la fin du 19ème siècle

Autrefois première ville de Jordanie, Salt conserve aujourd'hui le charme de ses maisons anciennes. Elle fut l'objet d'un soin tout particulier: une association créée il y a six ans s'efforce de préserver ce témoignage de l'urbanisme jordanien datant du 19ème siècle.

Dans la petite ville de Salt (25 km au sud-ouest d'Amman), une ravissante architecture traditionnelle est encore en vie. Et si un programme de développement industriel a été lancé récemment, on veille à préserver cet héritage. Au début du siècle, Salt était le siège de l'administration ottomane: elle comptait 25.000 habitants (contre 35.000 aujourd'hui), alors qu'Amman n'était encore qu'un village. Salt a été "oubliée" par l'expansion économique, touristique et démographique qui a transformé Amman en un complexe urbain d'1.250.000 habitants.

Depuis l'établissement d'Amman comme capitale du Royaume jordanien (1927), Salt a su garder son caractère. Comme au début du siècle, elle reste une cité pédestre, où la marche reste le principal moyen de transport. Nichée dans une vallée entre trois montagnes, ses maisons sont construites en terrasses. Les pierres jaunes, largement utilisées de 1880 à 1930, confèrent à la ville cet air typique, cet urbanisme à échelle humaine qui a disparu des grandes villes du Moyen-Orient.

Les vieux quartiers, qui donnent à Salt son identité si particulière, datent de

1890-1920. La maison traditionnelle est bâtie sur un à trois étages. Arches, balcons, escaliers et piliers se combinent pour donner à la cité cette apparence unique. La maison type de Salt ouvre sur un patio qui donne accès à l'intérieur. Les portes mènent successivement à un salon pour visiteurs, une salle de séjour, la cuisine, les chambres et les toilettes extérieures.

L'environnement réhausse le style des bâtiments. Les pentes abruptes des collines ont obligé le centre ville à se développer en une série de rues parallèles et horizontales, jointes verticalement par une toile d'araignée d'escaliers et de passages.

Hier et aujourd'hui

L'originalité de Salt réside dans le fait que ses maisons historiques sont encore au cœur de la vie contemporaine de la ville. Elles appartiennent toujours aux familles qui les ont construites il y a une centaine d'années. La principale demeure fut bâtie en 1880 par Salah Abu Jabar. Ce riche fermier et marchand avait fait venir des ingénieurs italiens pour l'aider à réaliser son rêve. C'est aujourd'hui une bâtisse particulièrement bien préservée: sols de marbre blanc d'Italie, lambris et peintures d'origines sur les murs. La famille Abu Jabar a décidé d'en faire un musée public.

La volonté de conservation, si forte à Salt, doit beaucoup au fait que la ville s'est développée lentement au cours de ce siècle. Au cœur de cet effort, l'associa-

tion pour le développement de Salt (SDC), fondée il y a six ans. Son ambition: donner en exemple cette ville qui a transmis l'urbanisme jordanien du 19ème et du début du 20ème siècle, en s'agrandissant tout en maintenant son identité. L'association a trois objectifs: préparer l'entrée de Salt dans le 21ème siècle, établir un centre culturel au cœur de la ville (en voie d'achèvement: inauguration prévue en mai) et constructions nouvelles (centre d'éducation pour les femmes, hôpital ophtalmologique et foire annuelle). Mais la priorité du SDC et du maire, M. Abdel Razzaq Neour, est de conserver les vieilles maisons en harmonisant les nouvelles constructions au style de l'ancienne cité.

Car malheureusement, l'expansion urbaine a engendré des monstruosités aux environs de Salt, d'où le cri d'alarme des autorités. L'équilibre entre ancien et moderne se trouve aujourd'hui à un croisement critique. Les autorités ont donc renforcé l'expansion immobilière au nord-ouest de la ville. Elles ont aussi encouragé les propriétaires à rénover les maisons caractéristiques en modifiant le caractère. Elles s'appliquent enfin à moderniser le réseau électrique, les égouts et l'eau courante.

Salt reste un joyau conservé dans un écrin de verdure, une festivité pour le regard, un exemple pour beaucoup de pays qui ont détruit leur patrimoine architectural au profit d'un modernisme bien aléatoire.

CHRISTINE BOULANGER

BULLETIN D'ABONNEMENT

NOM:.....
ADRESSE:.....
TEL:.....
Je m'abonne au "Jerusalem Star" pour un an.
Je joins un chèque de... 7 JD (Amman. Par portage).
(Payer les mentions (nullité) ... 10 JD (Jordanie. Envol postal).
...80 \$ (Proche-Orient)
...80 \$ (Europe)
Date:.....
Signature:.....
(Libeller votre chèque à l'ordre du "Jerusalem Star" et l'envoyer à cette adresse: Jerusalem Star/Subscriptions, P.O. Box 591 Amman/Jordan.)

AU MENU

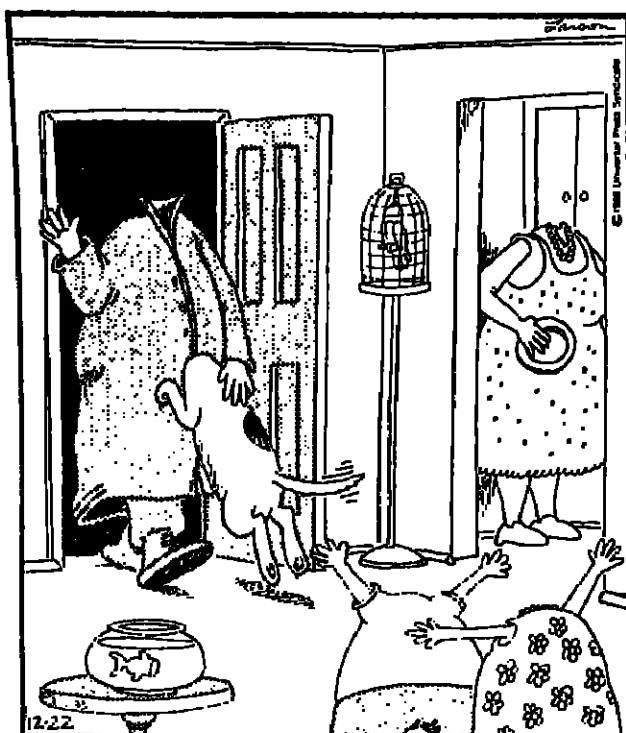
Salade d'aubergines

Pour 4 personnes: 500 g de petites aubergines, 2 gousses d'ail, 2 yaourts nature, huile.

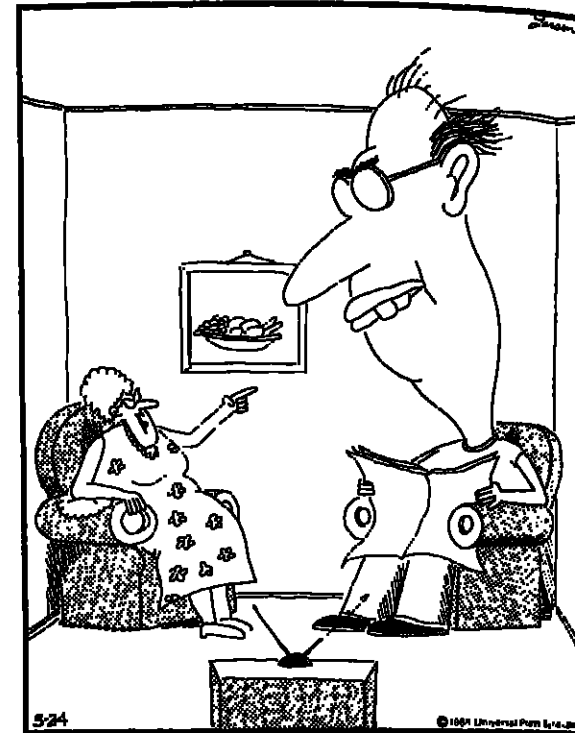
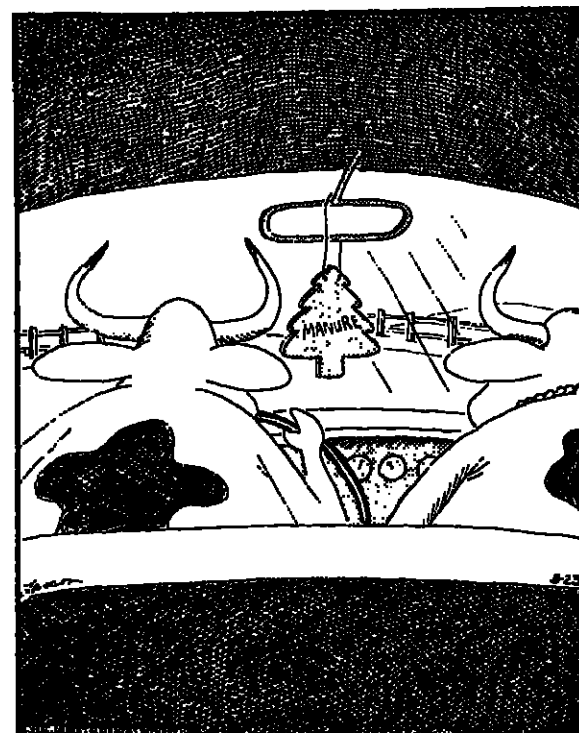
Laver les aubergines puis les couper en petites lamelles. Saupoudrer d'ail et laisser dégorger 30 min. Rincer et égoutter avec papier absorbant. Dans une poêle, faire chauffer 4 cuill. à soupe d'huile. Y faire dorer les aubergines, puis les égoutter sur papier. Saler, poivrer. Verser un peu de yaourt dans un plat creux. Recouvrir d'une couche d'aubergines et parsemer d'ail haché. Continuer ainsi en couches, en terminant par le yaourt. Couvrir le plat et mettre au réfrigérateur avant de servir.

THE JERUSALEM STAR 35

34 THE JERUSALEM STAR



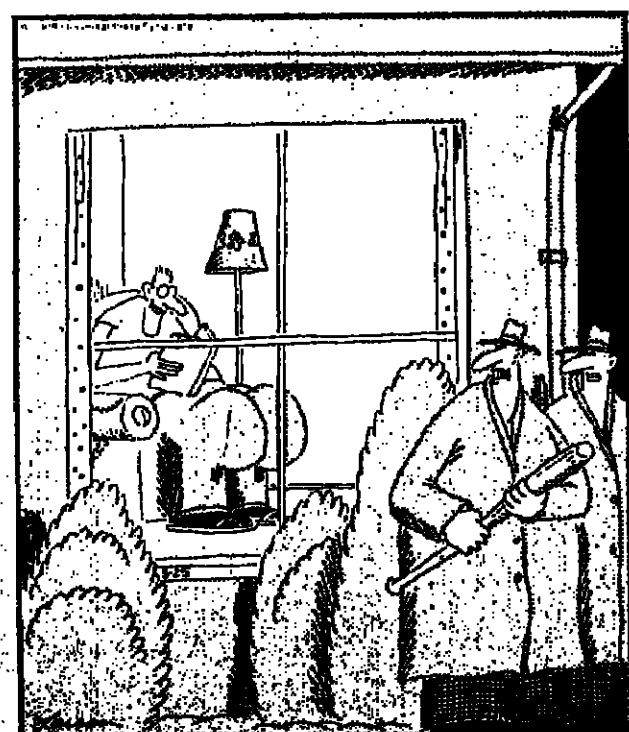
The Headless Horsefamily



"OK, here it is: I'm sick of your face, Ned."

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



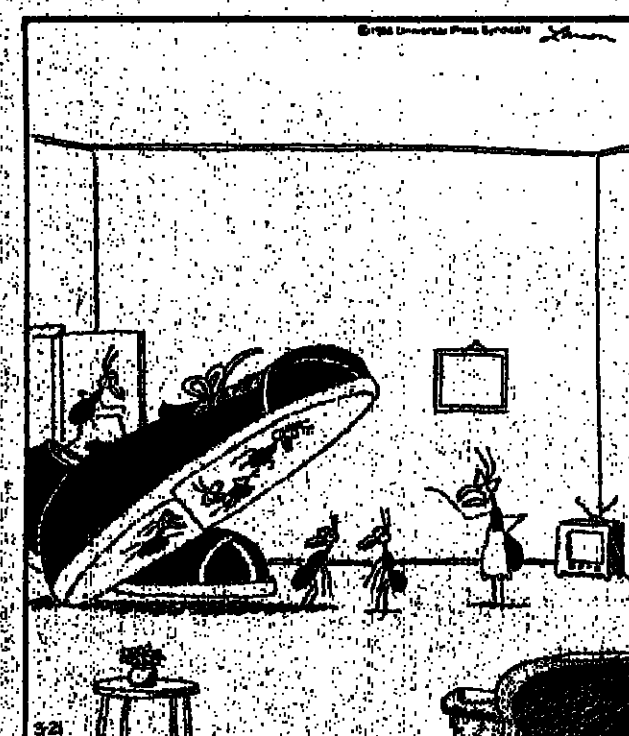
"Man, Larry, I don't know if we're up to this. I mean, this guy's got kneecaps from hell."



Cartoon readings



"Johnson, back off! It's an Armadillo ladderball, all right — but it's rabid!"



"Ernie! Look what you're doing — take those shoes off!"



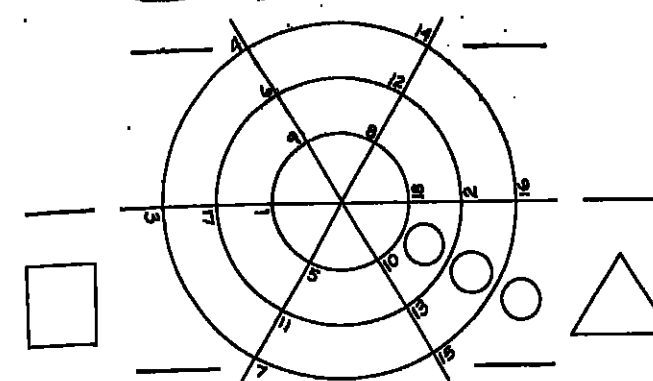
"You have a small capacity for reason, some basic tool-making skills, and the use of a few simple words. — Yep, that's you."



"Randy, you idiot! Never take an elevator in an emergency!"

MAGIC CIRCLE

Follow the directions and find out why the circle below is magic. Use your calculator.



Add along each line. Write each sum on the blank provided. Total the sums on the lines and write it in the square. Add around each ring. Write the sum in the circle provided. Total the sums in the circles and write it in the triangle.

Once upon a time the wind blew some leaves on the ground. The leaves got mixed up and formed a living creature. He was so happy he was alive that he ran around playing with the wind. When the wind stopped blowing, the creature was very sad because no one would play with him. So he walked down the lane. Suddenly he saw kids playing in the park. He was so glad that now he could play with the kids. He went up to them but when they saw him, they ran away. So he said, "I'm going back to the wind where I am wanted."

Yezun Haddadin, Grade 7
A.H.S.S.

He's fast as a comet! He's strong as Superman! He's hard as a rock! He's superleaf! Only one thing threatens his planet. The human being! They are going to cut down his planet. He's real! Oh, no! They're tearing him apart! He's ruined! The ex-hero is helpless to save planet tree! There it goes in the fire! Poor superleaf! Gone forever...

Ramzi Aefour, Grade 7
A.H.S.S.

The Leaky Saver

This is a very strange monster. He is made out of leaves. His house is a stranger. It is made out of fruits. His mother looks like a leafy fairy. He likes to play with his friends like Old Fellow Apple.

One day one of his friends was going to die. So he ran to the river to get him some water and saved him. His friend didn't know how to repay him. One time a fire started and almost burned him up. Leaky Saver was warned in time by his old friend. The two were very happy and lived happily ever after.

Self-Bathoum, Grade 7
A.H.S.S.

It's superman! No, it's a flower! No, it's Superflower! Once upon a time, some bad creatures came to earth to destroy our city. Our hero, Clark Flower, heard about it. He went to a secret place and changed into SUPERFLOWER and kicked the creatures back to their planet.

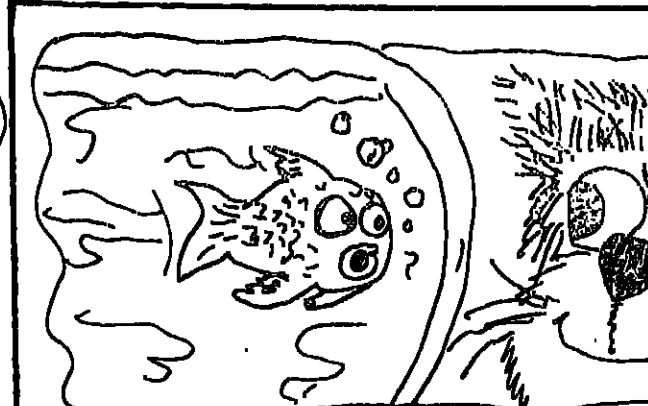
Omair Qasim, Grade 7
A.H.S.S.

Solution to Surprise Match

1. method
2. knowledge
3. rather
4. putrid
5. minus
6. notice
7. goat
8. amend
9. hasten
10. heron

Answers to Home Safety Quiz

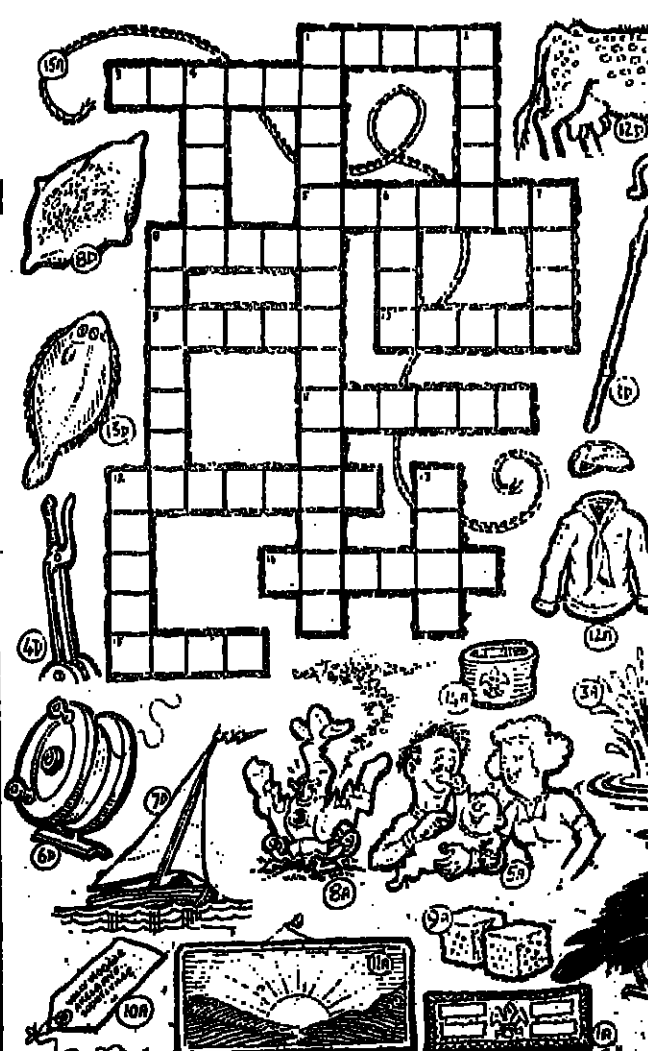
1. True
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. False
6. False



How old is the fish?

The best way to learn the age of a fish is to look in its ear, scientists have learned. A calcium stone called an otolith found inside the ear yields information about its age and history — like the rings in a tree trunk.

Picture Crossword



Riddles

What did the mother sardine say to her frightened children when they saw a submarine for the first time?

Don't be frightened children. It's only a can of sardines.
What is always before you, yet you cannot see it?

The future.

What bird can lift the heaviest weight?

The crane.

What can be drying but keeps getting wet?

A towel.

What word has an e at the beginning and an e at the end, but only one letter in it?

Envelope.

If witches went to school, what would be their best subject?

Spelling.

What has one eye and is made of steel?

A needle.

What do you call a pony with a sore throat?

A little horse.

Surprise Match

Below are two columns of words. Each of the words in column 1 can be combined with one of the words in column 2 to form a new word, totally unrelated to the pair used to form it. That is the first surprise!

The second surprise is that one or both parts used to form the new word will change pronunciation when the parts are combined!

This puzzle is much harder than it looks!

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 1. met | a. rid |
| 2. know | b. ice |
| 3. rat | c. end |
| 4. put | d. ledge |
| 5. sin | e. at |
| 6. not | f. on |
| 7. go | g. hod |
| 8. am | h. her |
| 9. has | i. ten |
| 10. her | j. us |



Home Safety Quiz

See if you are a safety expert by answering the following questions about home safety.

1. You should never leave toys around the house, particularly where people can walk on them.
True/False

2. You should never touch an electrical appliance if you have wet hands.
True/False

3. It is safe to lean out of windows to wave to your friends.
True/False

4. A safety expert knows where to find the electricity, gas and water mains so that they can be turned off in an emergency.
True/False

5. You may run with a knife in your hand if there is a real emergency.
True/False

6. Striking a match around the gas container in the kitchen is a good way to test for leakage.
True/False